TRANSLATION

OF

THE PEKING GAZETTE

FOR

1878.

SHANGHAI:
REPRINTED FROM THE "NORTH-CHINA HERALD AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE."
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PREFACE.

THE year 1878 has been one of great anxiety for the Government of China. One of the most disastrous and terrible famines that history has to record has afflicted a large portion of the Empire, and the memorials reporting the progress and extent of this famine are full of the deepest interest. The eloquent and touching appeals for aid from the high authorities of the provinces directly interested, the exhortations to economy, and outcries for administrative reform that have been submitted by Censor after Censor, with the decrees that these have called forth, show that the "heart of the Empire" has been deeply moved. However temporary the excitement may be, there has undoubtedly been a genuine desire on the part of many energetic and earnest men to direct the attention of their rulers to the numberless abuses that are sapping the foundations of Empire, and the memorials on this subject are exceptionally numerous and interesting.

The conquest of Kashgaria has put an end to a costly war, the maintenance of which for the past sixteen years has been a heavy drain on the Exchequer. The triumphant decrees that follow the announcement of the victories of the successful general Tso Tsung-t'ang show what importance is attached to the completion of an enterprise that was at one time regarded by the European world as perfectly hopeless.

The usual copious index will be found at the commencement of the volume, the usefulness of which will, it is hoped, be increased by the record it contains of all promotions and official transfers, which have been noted during the past year with special care.

Owing to unavoidable circumstances, the translations for the last six weeks of the year were prepared by a different hand, which will account for a lack of uniformity in the orthography of proper names.

SHANGHAI, 1879.

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TO THE

PEKING GAZETTE

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*** For purposes of classification, with a view to ready reference, the contents of the *Peking Gazette*, as translated in this volume, have been indexed under six principal headings, viz :—Court Affairs, Judicial and Revenue Administration, Civil and Military Administration, Instruction, Worship, and Usages, External Relations, and the Provinces. Under each of these main divisions, the subjects are still further arranged in appropriate categories.

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Do. do. Kiangsu..... Nov. 17.
Sun Yi-king, sub-Chancellor, Grand Secretariat ..... March 14.
Sung Ch'ang, Grain Intendant, Kwei-chow ..... Jan. 3.
Sung K'üan, Warden of Imperial Parks..... May 13.
Sung Shên, Vice-President, Board of Ceremonies..... April 15.
Hê Hing, Financial Commissioner, Kiangsu ..... July 16.
Do. Judge, Honan ..... Nov. 17.
Tsêng Ki-tsê, Sub-Director, Court of Sacrificial Worship Oct. 31.
Tsêng Show, Judge, Chêkiang .... Aug. 2.

Tsai Ling, Director-General, Veritable Record Office ... April 17.
Do. Grand Secretary, T'i Jên-koh ..... July 5.
Do. High Commissioner, Peking Customs..... Aug. 23.
Tsing An, Military Assistant Governor, Kobdo ..... Aug. 4.
Tsing Lien, Deputy Supervisor of Instruction ..... June 14.
Tsüan Lin, Chief Supervisor ..... March 14.
Do. Sub-Chancellor, Grand Secretariat ..... May 28.
Tsüan T'sing President Board of Punishments ..... April 15.
Tu Jui-lien, Governor of Yünnan ..... Aug. 1.
Tung Hün, Director-General, Veritable Record Office... June 20.
Tung Hwa, Director-General State Historiographer's Office ..... June 20.
Do. Vice-President, Board of Civil Office ..... Sept. 23.
Wan Shun, Superintendent Imperial Manufactory, Soochow..... July 13.
Wan Ts'ing-li, President Board of Revenue ..... June 19.
Wang Che-han, Sub-Chancellor, Grand Secretariat..... Aug. 2.
Wang Sze-yi, Financial Commissioner, Shênsi ..... July 31.
Wang Ta-king, Financial Commissioner, Hupeh ..... Aug. 2.
Wang Wên-shao, Vice-President, Board of Ceremonies May 15.
Do. Probationer, Grand Council ..... Mar. 8.
Do. Acting Vice-President, Board of War Mar. 8.
Do. Appointed to Tsung-li Yamên ..... Aug. 21.
Wên Chung-han, Intendant, Wên-ch'u Circuit ..... Mar. 12.
Wên Yü, President, Court of Censors..... June 15.
Wêng Hio-pên, Grain Intendant, Fuh-kien ..... March 31.
Weng T'ung-ho, President, Court of Censors ..... June 19.
Wu Tsan-ch'eng, Acting Governor of Fuh-kien ..... May 8.
Do. President of Banqueting Court ..... Nov. 8.
Yang Ch'ang-kün, Assistant to Tso Tsung-t'ang ..... June 16, July 1.
Do. Decree..... July 1.
Yao Kin-yuan, Judge, Hupeh ..... Aug. 2.
Yeh Ta-cho, Groom of the Library ..... June 25.
Yi Tsing, Sub-Chancellor, Grand Secretariat ..... April 22.
Ying Kwei, Imperial agent at K'urun..... April 12.
Yü Kw'an, Governor of Fuh-kien ..... Nov. 16.
Yü Sze-shu, Lieutenant-Governor, Shantung ..... Jan. 2.

PUBLIC SERVICE.

Chang Ts'ung-lung, retained for service in Kiangnan ... Nov. 6.
Ch'ang Shun, Acting Commandant, Barkul ..... Nov. 18.
Ch'ên Lan-pin, Audience of Leave ..... March 12.
Che Kang, Imperial Agent, Urga, retires ..... April 11.
Ch'ung How, summoned to Peking ..... June 22.
Do. arrives and has audience ..... Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 6.
Ch'ên Ts'ao-ju, services applied for by Li Hung-chang... Aug. 13.
Ch'êng Lin, permitted to ride in forbidden city ..... Nov. 11.
Chow Hêng-ki, Financial Commissioner, Chihli, absolved from Audience ..... Aug. 16.
Ch'ing Ch'un, Tartar General, Foochow, penalties inflicted ..... Sept. 1.

Ch'ên Tê'-fu, Brigadier-General, Têng-chow—Report on capacity ..... Nov. 11.
Ch'eng Fu, Judicial Commissioner, Kwantung, takes office ..... Nov. 9.
Chow Hêng-k'i, Financial Commissioner, Chihli, assumes office ..... Sept. 4.
Fuh Shêng, Lieutenant-General, penalties inflicted..... March 9.
Fuh Show-tang, Judge of Honan, resumes charge of his original post ..... June 5.
Do. Lieutenant-Governor of Honan, resumes his original duties ..... June 5.
Do. Punished and removed..... Oct. 29, Nov. 16.
Fu-erh-sun, Deputy Lieutenant-General at Cha P'u, goes to Peking ..... June 27.
Do. Charges against, explanation demanded... Sept. 26.
Do. Assumes duties of Brigadier-General at Hangchow ..... Oct. 10.
Do. Penalties to be inflicted..... Nov. 28.
Do. Difference with Tartar General ..... Dec. 13.
Hwang T'i-fang, Penalties remitted..... April 13.
Do. Thanks from ..... April 14, 30.
Hu Kwang-jung, Yellow riding jacket bestowed upon... May 31, June 13.
Hüeh Shu-ch'ang acts as Judge of Kiangsu ..... June 4.
Ho King, Governor-General, Minchêh, one month congé June 21.
Hia Kia-kao, Given Button of Second Rank..... July 3.
Hieh Yün-shêng assumes office as judge of Shansi ..... Nov. 29.
Hu Chung-ho, Commander-in-chief, deprived of Yellow Riding, Jacket, &c..... July 10.
Hwang Ping-yün, late Brigade-General, T'ai-yuan, granted sick leave ..... Oct. 1.
Jung Yü, Investigation of charges against..... May 24.
Jung Hü, Assistant Chamberlain, dismissed ..... April 19.
Jên Tao-jung, Financial Commissioner, Hangchow, takes office..... Aug. 18.
Kung T'ang, Commandant of forces at Urumtsi, assumes office ..... Oct. 4.
K'ung Ling-i succeeds to Confucian dukedom, (and note) ..... Jan. 8.
Kün Ki to resume charge of Canton Customs ..... March 5.
Do. Reward for contribution of Tls. 10,000..... Oct. 3.
Kwei Fêng, Assistant Resident Tibet, recalled ..... Nov. 5.
Kw'ei Ling, President Board of Revenue, retires..... June 14.
Kw'ei Fêng censured for error in memorial ..... July 5.
Kiang Ning-hio, Treasurer Shênsi, retires..... July 31.
Do. Permission solicited ..... Aug. 16.
Li Chao-yuan, Acting Governor, Kweichow ..... Nov. 21.
Li Ch'eng-mow, Commander-in-chief, Naval Forces, mourning ceased ..... Dec. 31.
Li Süan-hwa recalled from Shantung ..... Jan. 2.
Li Hoh-nien took seals of office..... Feb. 11.
Do. Resigns acting governorship of Honan ... June 4.

Li P'ei-king, goes to Peking ..... Nov. 21.
Liu Hien, Taotai, Commended by Wên Pin, (see also opium) ..... Jan. 5.
Liu Show-t'u, Memorial on his behalf..... Jan. 24.
Li Hung-chang, Penalties requested and remitted ..... April 19.
Do. do. inflicted for breach in Grand Canal ..... Aug. 30.
Do. Goes to Paoting ..... Dec. 8.
Li Lien-hiu, compilation of official biography sanctioned May 19.
Liu Jui-fên, Taotai of Shanghai, had audience..... June 3.
Lo Fang-k'i, Acting Governor of Kiangsu ..... June 4.
Do. Goes into mourning..... Aug. 1.
Liu Tien, Permitted to retire .... June 16, July 1.
Li Ming-ch'e, Financial Commissioner, Fuhkien, returns thanks for appointment .... June 20.
Li Chao-t'ang, Judge of Chihli, retires ..... July 3.
Li Wei-shu, General in Kwangsi, audience of leave..... Oct. 3.
Liu Ch'ang-yeo, &c., censured for want of supervision over his subordinates ..... July 10.
Liu Ping-chang, retires ..... Nov. 21.
Li Wên-k'i, Prefect in Kiangsu, charge of mean origin not proved..... July 18.
Li Wên-ming, Acting Governor, Kiangsi ..... Nov. 21.
Liu Kw'un-yi, One month's congé ..... Aug. 8.
Do. Resumes duties..... .... Sept. 10.
Lu Shih-kieh, Judge, Fuhkien, absolved from audience. Aug. 19, June 20.
Liu Ping-chang, vacates Governorship of Kiangsi ..... Aug. 20, Sept. 3.
Ma Ju-lung, Commander-in-chief, Hunan, retires ..... Sept. 5.
Mao Lin, Comptroller Imperial Household, dismissed... May 9.
M'u T'u-shae, Governor of Ch'ahar, penalties inflicted... Sept. 1.
Ngên Ch'êng, on special mission to Szech'wan ..... Oct. 21.
Pao Ying, Military Assistant Governor at K'obdo, 3 months' congé ..... June 6.
Do. Leave to retire ..... Aug. 3.
Pao Hêng, Gives over charge of acting governorship ... Sept. 15.
Pan Ki-yün, Renewed recommendation for appointment to Hwai-ngan Intendency .... Nov. 9.
Pei Kin-tsüan, Commodore Fuhkien, goes into mourning July 14.
P'eng Kiu-yü, Vice-President Board of Civil Office, retires ..... Nov. 7.
P'an Wei, Acting Governor of Hupeh ..... Nov. 12.
Shên Pao-chêng, Report on state of health ..... April 11.
Do. On corpse examiners, and constables... Jan. 3.
Do. Renewed application for retirement... Jan. 3, Feb. 23.
Do. Censured for proposing abolition of military examinations..... March 28.
Do. Resigns seals to Governor during absence ..... May 5, June 4.
Do. Resumes office ..... July 15.
Shao K'i, Carelessness in forwarding memorials ..... Jan. 30, Feb. 11, Mar. 1.
Shên Pao-king, Taotai of Kiukiang had audience..... June 2.

Shao Show, Prefect in Feng-tien province, charges against dismissed ..... July 3.
She Liu, Brigade-General, Chapu, takes office ..... Nov. 28.
Shêng Jung, Commissary, Tibet, renewed term of office Aug. 21.
Shêng Süan-hwai, Report on capacity..... Oct. 3.
Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Honan, takes office ..... Aug. 28.
Siao Shih-pên, Transferred to most important district, Chihli ..... Nov. 15.
Sun K'ai-hwa, Presents from Emperor ..... Nov. 17.
Sun Kwan-shan, Summoned to Peking ..... March 30.
Sung Lin, Acts as Customs Taotai, Newchwang, &c. ... Oct. 28.
T'ê Erh-ts'ing, had audience ..... Sept. 30, Nov. 12.
Teng Yü-tê, Brigade-General, Yünnan, retires ..... Sept. 19.
Ting Pao-chêng, Censured for improper recommendation Feb. 23.
Do. Penalties inflicted ..... March 9.
Do. Punished for careless memorial ..... Nov. 4, 20.
Tu Hing-ah, Posthumous honors bestowed ..... April 7.
Tsao Pao, Retires from Board of Punishments ..... April 15.
Ts'ên Yü-ying, Mourns for his grandmother ..... Oct. 19.
Ts'ing An, Military Assistant Governor, K'obdo, audience of leave ..... Sept. 24.
Ts'ing Lin, Warden of Parks and Hunting Grounds, dismissed ..... May 9.
Tso Tsung-t'ang, Honors conferred ..... March 16.
Do. do. declined ..... April 22, May 9, 30.
Do. Penalties inflicted for carelessness..... Sept. 9.
Ts'üan Ts'ing, Permission to attend at graduate's banquet for the second time..... Oct. 20, Nov. 2.
T'uh Tsung-ying, Enters on duties of Governor of Honan June 4.
T'uh Fu-lung, Captain of "Ts'ê Hai," Recommendation of. Oct. 22.
Ting Jih-ch'ang, Granted permission to retire ..... May 7, 27.
Do. Allowed to memorialise..... July 3.
Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Censured for requesting that a body may enter the city gates..... June 19.
T'o K'o-jui, Military Deputy Lieutenant-Governor, Tsitsihar, returns to duty ..... June 21.
T'o Yün, Permitted to ride in forbidden city..... Nov. 11.
Tsêng Chang-che, Magistrate Ling District Shantung, temporarily retained for judicial work..... Aug. 7.
Ting Show-ch'ang, Judge, Chihli, absolved from audience Aug. 16.
Tsai Jun, Name conferred on son of Prince of Hwei..... Aug. 25.
Tsêng Ki-tseh, Peacock's feather bestowed upon ..... Aug. 26.
Do. Had audience of leave ..... Sept. 24.
Ting Pao-cheng, Censured for improper recommendation Feb. 23.
Tung Hün, Denunciation of ..... April 2, 17.
T'ung Hwah, On special mission to Szech'wan ..... Oct. 21.
Wei Ying-kwang—Mother dies ..... Dec. 2.
Wen Kw'ei, Supt. Impl. Manufactory, Hangchow—Returns to duty ..... Sept. 2.
Wên Pao-shên completes 60th anniversary of taking degree ..... Nov. 6.

Wêng T'ung-ho, censured for expressing contradictory views ..... Feb. 24.
Do. Permitted to ride in Forbidden City... Nov. 11.
Wang Wen-shao, hands over seal of office in Hunan ... Feb. 27.
Do. leave of absence to meet his Mother.. May 26, June 10.
Wu Ta-chêng—Honorable mention of services..... Oct. 16.
Wu Tsan-chêng—Acts as Governor of Fuhkien ..... Sept. 15.
Do. Superseded at his own request ..... Nov. 16.
Wu Yuan Ping—Acting Gov.-General of Liang-kiang.. June 4.
Do. Resigns ..... July 15.
Wu Ch'ao—Taotai, Honan, summoned to Peking ..... June 8.
Yang Ch'ang-kün—Thanks for appointment ..... Oct. 15.
Yang Yü-k'o—Had audience..... Sept. 17, 29.
Yên King-ming—Three months' congé ..... Nov. 3.
Ying Han—Posthumous honors bestowed ..... Feb. 23.
Do. Official biography ..... May 13.
Do. Libations to ..... Nov. 12.
Ying Kwei—Two months' congé ..... March 3.
Do. Permitted to retire ..... April 30.
Do. Agent at Urga, audience of leave..... June 10.
Ying Lien—Military Assistant Governor at Tarbugatai hands over seals of office ..... May 29.
Do. Arrives in Peking and has audience ..... Aug. 14.
Yuan Pao-hêng—Secretaries of return to Peking..... June 24.
Yang Ch'ang-kün—Services applied for ..... July 1.
Yang Lien-kwei—Contract for copper, breach of ..... July 10.
Yeh T'ing-ch'un—Superintendent C. M. S. N. Co. ..... Sept. 7.
Yü Luh—Extension of congé ..... Sept. 1.
Yü Shih—Imperial Agent Si-ning, retires..... Nov. 13.

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Economy, etc.—Recommended by Censor ..... Feb. 19.
Public Expenditure—Protest against extravagance ..... March 12, Dec. 9.
Official Extravagance—Decree on ..... March 30.
Administration—Papers on ..... Apr. 2, 5, 6, May 6, June 16, 19, Aug. 2, 3, Dec. 17.
Work on Famine administration ..... Oct. 30.
Heads of Department—Attendance at office ..... Nov. 9.
Officials denounced in Shansi ..... Jan. 10.
Do. do. Honan ..... Jan. 13.
Malpractices of Official Clerks ..... Jan. 24.
Extortion at Tientsin—Police officer cashiered..... Jan. 24.
Enquiry respecting malpractices in Honan ..... Jan. 26.
Malpractices in issue of certificates of office, etc. ..... Jan. 28, Feb. 17.
Officials cashiered Nganhwei and Honan ..... Feb. 14.
Malversation in Kiangsu—Dep. Magistrate cashiered... Feb. 21.
Frauds in issue of Government Notes—Shênsi ..... Jan. 26, Feb. 22.
Official defalcations, Kiangsu ..... March 7.
Salt collector cashiered, Szech'wan ..... March 8.
Encroachment on Government Temple Lands ..... Apr. 7, May 2, 9.
Malpractices of officers distributing relief ..... April 3.
Acts of tyranny on part of Military Officer ..... April 14.

Magistrates dismissed, Chihli	April 20.
Imperial Banqueting Court—charges against Secretary.	April 28.
Fraudulent assumption of rank by persons of mean origin	April 30.
Official defalcations, Szech'wan	April 30, May 17, Sep. 23.
Illegal arrest of traders, Ninguta	May 4.
Officials denounced for peculation, Shansi	May 25.
Magistrate cashiered and placed on trial for extortion and connivance at murder	May 30.
Police Magistrate Peking, cashiered	May 31.
Magistrate cashiered for extortion, Kansu	June 2.
Secretary dismissed at Moukden	June 1.
Magistrate cashiered for extortion, Shensi	June 10.
Charges against Manchu Captain, Moukden	June 7, 15.
Officials denounced for mal-administration of famine relief, Shênsi	June 27.
Colonel of Battalion cashiered, Kansuh	July 4.
Corruption in Honan	July 16.
Sub-prefect cashiered for execution of innocent persons.	July 21.
Colonel cashiered for unauthorised execution	Aug. 6.
Magistrates proceeded against for arrears of land tax	Aug. 7.
Mongolian Superintendency—errors in memorial	Sept. 4.
Magistrate cashiered for incapacity, etc., Kiangsu	Sept. 13.
Frauds by Magistrates in Shantung	Nov. 22.
Captain dismissed for threatening the life of his Colonel.	Nov. 24.
Error in Memorial—Penalties for	Nov. 25.
Gambling by Military Officers	Nov. 26.
Officer cashiered for selling a wreck	Nov. 27.
Secretary of Board—Suspicious conduct	Dec. 3.
Error in Memorial—Penalty for	Dec. 4.
Shansi—Malpractices in	Dec. 12.
Fraudulent assumption of rank	Sept. 14.
Kirin—Charges against Governor	Sept. 15.
Do. Malicious arrest of innocent persons	Sept. 25.
Honan—Irregularity in famine distribution	Sept. 22.
Purchase of rank—Censor on abuses in	Sept. 28.
Magistrates cashiered in Honan	Oct. 7.
Do. do. Shantung	Oct. 27.
Do. do. Anhwei	Oct. 28.
Sub-prefect cashired in Shansi	Nov. 4.
Fire in Peking Granary	Nov. 13.
Magistrate dismissed for beating a man to death	Dec. 5.
Provincial Treasurers—Malpractices of	Dec. 10.
Arrogation of judicial functions by low officials	Dec. 17.
Law of respectful withdrawal—Infraction of	Dec. 20.
Officials applied for by Governor-General Tso	Jan. 10.
Brigade-General allowed to retire on full pay	Mar. 1.
Purchase of land by official under assumed name	Mar. 7.
Officials applied for by Governor-General of Fêngt'ien	Mar. 11.
Interchange of posts by District Magistrates	Mar. 14.
Shanghai Taotai finds his father's bones	March 22.

Official underlings—Stricter supervision ordered ..... March 24.
Officials specially recommended—Limit of time for examination ..... March 25.
Black Dragon Temple—Change of officers on duty ..... March 28.
Lieut.-Governor Chihli ordered to Peking ..... March 28.
Penalties inflicted on Members of Grand Council..... March 29, April 7, 8, 23.
Rewards to officers of Hankow Customs..... April 7.
Commander-in-chief changes his name ..... April 22.
District Magistrate—Posthumous appointment of ..... May 2, 15.
Lieut.-Governor of Yeh-ho applies for Secretary with knowledge of Mongolian..... May 6.
Metropolitan Officials employed on famine work—Application for pay ..... May 7.
Prefect recommended for Ta-li Fu ..... May 22.
Police Magistrate Peking—Restoration of rank applied for ..... May 26.
Rewards to officials in connection with famine relief ... June 3.
Magistrates removed on account of physical infirmity... June 3.
Officials rewarded for capturing salt smugglers ..... June 7.
Manchu captain degraded for mistake in the arrest of burglars ..... June 13.
Magistrate applies for exchange into educational department ..... June 24.
Superintendent of Court of Imperial Entertainment deprived of appointment..... June 28, July 12.
Kansuh—Commander-in-chief—title of nobility altered. July 4.
Uliasut'ai—Rewards to officers ..... July 6.
Do. Military Governor retires ..... July 7.
Do. Ch'un Fu assumes office ..... July 7.
Officers deputed for special service in Shantung ..... July 20.
Officers prohibited from going on special missions to their native provinces ..... July 21.
Magistrate in Anhwei appeals against denunciation..... July 22, Aug. 6.
Officers selected for appointments in the provinces, etc. (with note)..... July 24.
Hupeh—Magistrate rewarded for diligence in collection of land tax..... July 26.
Shansi—Salt Inspector rewarded for diligence and zeal. July 28.
Cashiered Officer retained on river duty..... July 31, Aug. 16.
Superintendents of Live Stock and House Duty—Penalties remitted..... Aug. 16.
Sub-prefects, &c., on probation—Objection by Censor to their acting as Magistrates..... Aug. 18.
Rewards to Military Officers, Canton ..... Aug. 30.
Rewards to Military Officers, Kirin..... Oct. 17.
Chêkiang—Surfeit of expectants for office ..... Oct 20.
Rewards to Military Officers, Hupeh ..... Oct. 26.
Rewards to Officers engaged in compilation of Grand Council Registers..... Oct. 27.
Cashiered Officers reinstated, Chihli ..... Nov. 11.
Omission of a character in translation from Manchu..... Jan. 2.

Sale of Titles—Proposal by Censor	Jan. 10.
Character used for Imperial name—Mode of writing	Jan. 18, Feb. 17.
Attempt to bribe Governor of Fuhkien—Enquiry	Jan. 18.
Appointment to Han Lin Offices	Jan. 20.
Loss of life by burning of Relief Shed at Tientsin	Jan. 20, Feb. 4, Apl. 1.
Change of an Official's name	Feb. 11.
Publication of lists of nominees for appointments solicited	Feb. 22.
Destruction by fire of draft office	April 3.
Encroachment on Government Temple lands	April 7, May 2, 9.
Request for bestowal of hereditary title on the son of Officer from whom it had been taken	May 29.
Payment of Salaries in grain—Abuses in connection with.	June 4.
Application for sanction to assumption of hereditary title by nephew of deceased Officer	June 7.
Harashar—Nomination of Acting Agent postponed	June 27.
Grand Secretariat—Sub-chancellors insufficient	Aug. 1.
Hwang T'i Fang on presents to officials	Aug. 2, 17.
Fire in Treasurer's Yamên Shansi—Penalty inflicted	Aug. 2.
Statutes of the Boards—Revision of	Aug. 4, 19.
Surfeit of expectants for office in Hupeh	Aug. 10.
Precedence of expectants for office—Proposed revision of rules	Aug. 14, 31.
Expectants for office—Examination of	Aug. 29.
Applications for honorary rewards to contributors to be made direct to the Emperor	Aug. 24.
Prohibition against slaughter of plough oxen	Aug. 28, Sept. 10.
Ting Pao-chêng—Carelessness in wording of Memorial.	Nov. 4.
Sale of rank—Increased facilities for, Shansi	Nov. 7.
Historiographer's Department—Extra pay to officials	Nov. 13.
Civil Suits—Assistant Magistrates forbidden to hear	Dec. 4.
Execution of robbers—Magistrates must apply for sanction	Dec. 24.
Drought and Famine.	
Chih-li—Distilling—Proposals for temporary prohibition.	Jan. 22, 24, Feb. 14, Apl. 3, 20.
Removal of prohibition	Oct. 13.
Opening of Wells	March 29.
Re-establishment of Relief Agencies at Paoting and Tientsin	April 1.
Dismissal of Magistrate for fraud and extortion.	April 20.
Appropriations for Famine Districts	April 25.
Report on rain-fall	June 10.
Officers cashiered for mal-administration	June 18.
Provision of seed corn for afflicted districts	July 2.
Plough oxen contributed from Ch'ahar	Sept. 8.
Horses from do.	Oct. 15.
Magistrate acquitted of charge of extortion	Sept. 14.
Chêkiang silk taxed for famine fund	Oct. 29.
Floods at K'ai-chow	Nov. 6.
Frauds in distribution of relief	Dec. 2.
Officers recommended for promotion	Dec. 4.

Peking—Proposal respecting sale of grain ..... Jan. 4, 21.
Decree in answer to representations of Han-lin expositor..... ..... March 5.
Refugees to be sent back ..... May 28.
Do. Proposed arrangements for sending back..... June 23.
Report on sale of grain ..... July 2.
Do. do. and close of agencies... Oct. 13.
Officials dying while engaged on Famine work —Record of services ..... Nov. 3.
Bannermen—Extra rations to ..... Dec. 17.
Beggars in, and allowance to Lamas ..... Dec. 17.
Shansi—Renewed entreaty for supply of grain ..... Jan. 8.
Second report on the state of the province..... Jan. 16.
Remission of land tax for coming half year ... Jan. 22.
Scheme for raising contributions ..... Feb. 25.
Contributions from Fêngt'ien..... March 11.
Application for escort for grain..... March 13.
Contributions from Szech'wan ..... April 16.
Abuses in connection with distribution of relief. May 8.
Execution of granary clerks for peculation..... May 9.
Officials denounced for malpractices..... May 25.
Report on rain-fall ..... May 16, June 6.
Contributions from Chêkiang..... June 12.
Do. do. Kweichow ..... June 14.
Difficulties of transport and proposed loan..... June 16.
Issue of relief to cease in 8th moon ..... June 30.
Suggestions for extension of sale of office system. July 4.
Reorganisation, &c., &c..... July 5.
Rain-fall and distribution of seed corn..... July 7.
Extension of period for issue of relief ..... July 9.
Government grain shops and banks—Extension of period for maintenance of ..... July 19.
Burial of corpses ..... July 19.
Occupation of deserted lands and reorganisation. July 21.
Return of prices and rate of exchange..... .. July 28.
Contributions from Fêngt'ien..... .. Aug. 11.
Do. do. Fuhkien ..... Sept. 2.
Report on condition of province and remission of taxes ..... Sept. 11.
Refuge for destitute orphans ..... Sept. 29.
Appropriations of grain—120,000 piculs and Tls. 200,000 ..... Oct. 13.
Honors to officials ..... Nov. 14.
Taxes on oxen remitted ..... Nov. 8.
P'ing-yang Fu—Enquiry into alleged mismanagement ..... Nov. 29.
Plough oxen—Subscriptions for purchase of ... Dec. 7.
Charges of corruption .... Dec. 9.
Transport of grain—Taotai rewarded for services ..... Dec. 15.

Shênsi—Exhaustion of Exchequer ...	Feb. 19.
Report on rain-fall	June 12.
Damage from hail storms	Nov. 6.
Assistanee rendered by Chu Ch'ang-lin	Nov. 18.
Honan—Remission of Land Tax for coming half-year ...	Jan. 22.
Exemption from purchase of grain for storage..	March 6.
Establishment of office for contributions	March 6.
Financial measures proposed (acts of cannibalism reported)	March 15.
Rewards to contributors	March 18.
Proposals for re-payment of loans	March 30.
Report on relief measures	April 3.
Governor of Kiangsu unable to lend grain	April 10.
Purchase of supplies by the Governor en route to his post	April 25.
Report on rain-fall	April 29, May 12.
Appropriations from Kiangsu	May 10.
Contributions from Shantung	May 13.
Do. do. Nanking	May 19.
Honorary distinctions for deserving magistrates.	May 19.
Rations for districts on outskirts of famine regions	May 19.
Application for extension of regulations governing offices for sale of titles	May 23.
Application for temporary cessation of periodical examinations	June 5.
Corruption in—Memorial by Chang P'ei-lun ...	June 11.
Report on rain-fall	June 11.
Contributions from Chêkiang	June 12.
Contributions from Szech'wan	July 24.
Contributions from Shanghai, and liberality of native residents	Aug. 9.
Modifications sanctioned in contribution agency system	Aug. 10.
Contributions of anti-extortion allowances	Aug. 10.
Contributions from Fêng-t'ien	Aug. 11.
Appropriation of proceeds of Yünnan Agencies for the sale of titles—Extension of period.	Aug. 12.
Magistrate cashiered for mis-management	Sept. 10, 22.
Taxes remitted	Sept. 13.
Han-lin compiler, special duties cease	Sept. 22.
Malpractices in connection with public granaries.	Nov. 22.
Shansi—Report respecting rice imported for	Jan. 26.
Honan—Report respecting rice imported for	Jan. 26.
Shantung—Diversion of tribute grain	March 14.
Report on condition of province	Sept. 14.
Floods at P'u-fan and Shon-yang	Nov. 6.
Fuhkien—Report on condition of	June 4.
Chihli—Locusts in	July 23.
Peking—Refugees sent back to their homes	June 10.
T'aiwan Fu—Hurricane at	July 15.

Pêng She-chiang—Scheme of.	May 31.
Li Hung-chang—Tribute rice sent to Famine Districts, Report	July 15.
Marks of approbation for acts of devotion	May 11.
Water supplies—Renovation of	March 6, 25.
Scrutiny of conduct of lower officials	March 14.
Measures for Relief—Suggestions of Tutor	March 21, April 5.
Refugees to be sent back with seed corn	March 21.
Economy and administrative reform—Decree on	March 22.
Palace Expenditure Economy in	March 29, 30, April 9, 14, 26, 27.
Malpractices of officers distributing relief	April 3.
Storage of grain as a provision against famine—Censor's memorial	April 10.
Appropriations for Famine districts	April 17.
Penalties inflicted on members of Grand Council	March 29, April 7, 23.
Burial of corpses	March 30.
Inducements to merchants to import grain into famine districts	April 1.
Deputy Supervisor on famine administration	April 2, 17.
Censor—Decree in answer to	April 2.
Secretary of Board—Decree in answer to	April 6.
Memorial	April 18.
Imperial Exchequer—Appropriations from	May 2.
Scheme of Tutor of Imperial Academy for raising Funds	May 3, 26.
Metropolitan Officers on Famine Work—Application for pay	May 7.
Decree on cultivation of tea shrub and mulberry tree	June 1.
Exhortation of Censor on maintenance of reverential attitude	May 25, June 8.
Importation of foreign grain pronounced inadvisable	July 3.
Officers placed on their trial for appropriation of relief funds	July 22, Aug. 7.
Remission of taxes in Famine Districts	July 23.
Penalties suggested by Censor against fraud	Aug. 7.
Work on famine administration	Oct. 30.
Famine Refugees—Relief in Anhwei stopped	Dec. 15.
Number relieved in Anhwei	Dec. 15.
Floods in the South	April 18, May 6, Oct 7.
,, in Chêkiang	Aug. 17, Sept. 2.
,, in Shantung	Nov. 25.

DECEASES.

Chêng—Prince of	March 21.
Ch'êng Ming—Brigade-General of a Banner	Feb. 19.
Chang Ying—Late Lieut.-Governor of Shansi	May 5.
Chow Che-pên—Provincial Commander-in-chief	June 4.
Chang Shuh-t'an—Taotai on Famine Work Shansi	June 19.
Fêng Kün-kwang—Taotai of Shanghai	June 5, July 18, Aug. 2.
Han Chao, late Acting-Governor of Kweichow	Sept. 17, Oct. 3.
Kiang Ning-hio, late Judge of Shênsi	Sept. 14.

Kwei Ling, formerly President Board of Revenue ..... Dec. 13.
Li Hwei-wu—Expectant T'i-tai in Kansu ..... May 31, June 15.
Li Ming-hwei, General, Lin Yuan Brigade, Yünnan ... Sept. 19.
Liu T'ing, Provincial Commander-in-chief, Honan ..... Aug. 30.
Lin Tien-ling, Literary Chancellor Kiangsu ..... Dec. 11, 26.
Ngên Sih, late Lieut. Governor of Kiangsu ..... Jan. 30.
Pao Shan, Assistant Chamberlain..... May 24.
Pao Hêng, Imperial Agent, Hami..... Sept. 28.
King Fuh, Superintendent of Customs, Shanhai Kwan.. Oct. 5.
Si-mêng-k'o-si-k'o, Deputy Lieut.-General..... April 19.
Sung Kwoh-yung, in charge of Brigade at Foochow ... Aug. 10, Oct. 10.
Suicide of expectant Prefect Shansi.. ..... Sept. 4.
Wu Ta-t'ing, Naval Instructor..... April 9.
Ying Han—Military Lieut.-Governor at Urumtsi ..... Feb. 13, March 26, May 13, Nov. 12.
Yuan Pao-hêng, Famine Commissioner in Honan..... May 14, June 1, 19, Oct. 7, Nov. 14.
Ying K'i—Financial Commissioner, Shansi ..... July 5.
Yi Shan, Retired Captain General ..... July 1.
Yi Ts'ing, Deputy Lieut.-General ..... Oct. 16.

MILITARY AFFAIRS.

Poh Ch'ang, T'i-tuh at Urumtsi—Departure of..... Jan. 19.
Yang Yü-k'o—Exchange of posts with, vetoed..... Jan. 19.
Yü She—Acting Military Lieut.-Governor at Urumtsi... Feb. 13.
Fu Chu-li—Brigade-General, allowed to retire ..... March 1.
Troops at Mansolea—Insufficiency of grain ..... March 11.
Troops retained at Kien-ch'ang for suppression of brigandage..... March 11.
Military record—Preparation of ..... April 1.
Abolition of Military Examinations—Proposal by Shên-pao-chêng ..... May 5, 23.
Shensi—Arrears owing to troops ..... May 13, 23, Sept. 15.
K'obdo—Application for permission to dispense with services of garrison ..... June 6.
Tso Tsung-t'ang on German breech-loading guns..... June 13.
Governor-General of Min Chêh returns abruptly from tour of military inspection ..... June 21.
Hangchow—Want of supervision over Bannermen ..... June 30.
Ulia-sut'ai—Measures for protection ..... July 6.
Shênsi—Mutiny of troops ..... July 22.
Canton—Establishment of irregular force ..... July 26.
Chihli—Purchase of cavalry horses ..... Aug. 13.
Unauthorized employment of the military—Decree on... Aug. 28, Sept. 10.
T'êng-yüeh, Brig. Genl. ordered to take up his appt. ... Sept. 19.
Passage of troops through Kiangsu—Expenses..... Oct. 1.
Difference of opinion between Tartar General and Manchu Brigade-General at Hangchow ... Sept. 26, Oct. 10.
Si-ning—Arrears of pay, claim abandoned by troops ... Nov. 3.
Kokonor—Disbandment of troops and popularity of Controller General ..... Nov. 6.
Yangtsze—Tour of inspection ..... Nov. 22, Dec. 11.

Furs for soldiers beyond the Wall	Nov. 23.
Irregulars disbanded—Kwang-tung	Nov. 24.
Pensions to children of military officers	Nov. 26.
Officers excused from drill	Nov. 28.
Appointments to steam-vessels	Nov. 29.
Shantung—Tour of inspection	Dec. 12.
Brigade-General Pa-li-kun, superseded for incompetency.	Dec. 13.
Bannermen in Peking—Extra rations to	Dec. 17.

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS.

Che Hoh—Lieut.-General, Plain Yellow Banner	April 19.
Ch'ang Shu—Deputy Lieut.-General	June 3.
Chang Shu-p'ing—General Tai-Yuan Brigade, Shansi	June 9.
Fu-erh Sun—Deputy Tartar General, Hangchow	July 11.
Jung Kwei—Deputy Lieut.-General	June 3.
Ki Ko—Deputy Lieut.-Gen. Bordered Red Banner	Oct. 18.
K'i Hün—Brigade General, Têng-chow	Oct. 27.
Ki Ling—Warden of Hunting Grounds	April 4.
K'o Hing-ah—Captain General, Guards Division	June 3.
Kwang K'é—Tartar General, Hangchow	July 11.
K'o Méng Ngo—Tartar General, Si-an	July 11.
Kw'un Kang—Deputy Lieut.-Gen. Bord. White Banner.	Aug 5.
Liao Ch'ang-ming—Brig. Gen. of Yung-chow, Hunan	Jan. 9.
Li Chao-pin—Naval instructor to Kiangnan steam fleet.	April 9.
Lo Ta-ch'un—Commander-in-chief, Hunan	Sept. 6.
Li Wên-yih—Brigadier-General, T'êng-yüeh	Nov. 6.
Ngên Lin—Lieut.-Gen., Plain Yellow Banner	April 16.
Shang Ch'ang-mow—Manchu Brigade-Gen., Canton	March 2.
Shang Tsung-jui—Capt. General, guard's division	June 3.
Shan Ts'ing—Tartar General, Ning Hia	July 11.
She Luh—Tartar General, Chap'oo	July 14.
T'ê Fuh—Lieut.-General, Plain Yellow Banner	April 16.
Do. do. Plain White Banner	April 19.
T'o Yün—Deputy Lieut.-General	June 3.
Tsung An—Military Assistant Governor at K'obdo	Aug. 4.
Wên Yü—Lieut.-General, Bord. White Banner	March 21.
Wên Hiu—Deputy Lieut.-General	June 3.
Yang Ch'ang-ch'un—Genl. L'in Yuan Brigade, Yünnan.	Sept. 19.
Yang Fang-kwei—Brig. General, Honan	Jan. 12.
Yi Mo—Deputy Lieut.-General	June 3.
Yi Hiang—Captain General, Bord. Red Banner	June 15.

PRISON AFFAIRS.

Long detention of criminals awaiting trial	Feb. 17, March 17.
Chihli—Re-capture of escaped prisoners	Feb. 19, March 4.
Honan—Escape of Prisoner	March 5, Aug. 27.
Ch'ahar—Escape of ex-officials in servitude on post roads	April 1, 25.
Escape of criminal under sentence of banishment	June 29, July 14, 19, Sept. 30.
Return of criminal to place of banishment	Nov. 2.
Szech'wan—Escape of criminals under sentence of death.	May 1.

Kiangsi—Murder of prisoner by his comrade..... July 25.
Yünnan—Escape of prisoners at Amichow. Jail master dismissed ..... Aug. 11.
Death of Criminal in Board of Punishments—Investigation ordered ..... Aug. 19, Sept. 4, 16, Oct. 1.
Military Post Road—Convict released on payment of station expenses ..... Oct. 30.
Jail Warden punished for escape of prisoners ..... Dec. 1.
Turnkey murdered by prisoners .... Dec. 3.
Lo Ping-hien, Kiangsi—Escape of prisoners ..... Dec. 15.

INSTRUCTION, WORSHIP AND USAGES.

Public Instruction.

Fuhkien—Honors to President of College .... April 29.
Nanking—Official Biography of President of College sanctioned .... May 19.
Yünnan—Schools and Colleges in..... Sept. 28.
Fuhkien—Schools in T'ai-pei Fu ..... Dec. 3.
Yünnan—Dearth of books, establishment of shop for sale of ..... Dec. 29.

Examinations, &c.

Literary examinations held in Manchuria ..... Feb. 21.
Examination of officers recommended for special merit... March 25.
Commutation of penalty for fraud by candidate ..... April 15.
Kiangsi—Enquiry into supposed fraud at provincial examination..... April 20.
Military examinations—Abolition proposed by Shên Pao-chêng ..... May 5, 23.
Triennial test examinations—Temporary cessation in portions of Honan recommended ..... June 5.
Szech'wan—Application for additional degrees ..... July 31.
Manchuria—Modifications in rules for granting degrees Aug. 18.
Formosa—Change in Direction of Examinations ..... Sept. 22.
Sixtieth anniversary of obtaining *kü-jên* degree..... Oct. 23, Nov. 2, 6, 26, 28.
Tsi-tsi-har—Examinations in ..... Dec. 10.
Kirin—Expenses of examinations ..... Nov. 23.
Triennial examinations—Publication of regulations ..... Dec. 9.
Chêkiang—List of places at which examinations have been held ..... Dec. 12.
Kwantung—Additional *kü-jên* degree ..... Dec. 31.

Worship.

Prayers for snow or rain at Peking ..... Jan. 4, 14, 24, Feb. 19, March 2, 7, 10, 11, 22, April 3, 8, May 3, July 18.
Thanks-givings for rain .... July 24.
General Prayers for rain..... April 15.
Thanks-giving for rain ..... April 22.
Prayers for rain in Shansi ..... May 3, 14.
Thanks-giving for rain..... May 23.
Worship at Tai-shan mountain ..... May 24.
Sticks of incense offered at Tai-shan mountain ..... May 25.

Sticks of incense for River God ..... Nov. 10.
Winter Solstice—Sacrifices on occasion of ..... Nov. 28.
Sacrifices to Prince Badsajarna ..... Nov. 30.

TABLETS, TEMPLES, &c.

Memorial tablets granted ..... Feb. 17, Apl. 25, May 2, 12, 20, 23, June 25, July 13, Sep. 11, 23, Nov. 12, 15, 30, Dec. 2, 10, 19, 22.
Temple to Ying Han ..... May 13.
Do. do. ..... May 31.
Do. for victims of rebellion in Honan in 1863..... May 11.
Do. do. do. 1862..... June 8.
Do. to members of Wu Wei force at P'ing-liang in Kansuh ..... June 20.
Do. at T'ai Shan partially destroyed by lightning... July 8.
Title for Temple, Wu-shih-shan, Foochow, applied for. Aug. 23.
Do. to God of Locusts..... Aug. 28.
Yuan Pao-hêng—Temple to ..... Oct. 7.
Do. do. ..... Oct. 21.
Lung Shên Temple, Jêhol—Sacrifices ordered ..... Nov. 12.
Temple to Dragon God ..... Nov. 30.

FEMALES.

Memorial structure to filial daughter, Kwang-tung ..... March 14.
Reward of conjugal devotion..... April 26.
Reward to concubine who committed suicide on the death of her master ..... June 20.
Widow mutilates herself for the benefit of her husband's aunt..... June 25.
Reward to young lady who died of grief on the death of her betrothed ..... July 31.
Honors bestowed on centenarian ..... Aug. 14.
Honors bestowed on girl who committed suicide upon the death of her mother ..... Aug. 31.
Do. do. do. do. Sept. 10.
Kansu—Canonization of the Angel Girl ..... Nov. 14.
Honors bestowed on devoted widow ..... Nov. 14.
Honors to virtuous and filial maiden, Chihli ..... Nov. 17.
Honors to widow who committed suicide ..... Dec. 27.

SUPERSTITION.

Alleged interposition of deity in Kwang-tung ..... Feb. 17.
Announcement of success in Turkestan to Emperor T'ung-chih ..... March 17.
Iron Tablet—Arrival in Peking..... March 28.
Officer sent for ..... April 8.
Returned to Han-tan ..... June 19.
Title and Memorial Board for Dragon Spirit..... May 23.
Dragon Spirit—Efficacy of..... May 25.
Interruption of "pulse" of rain Dragon ..... April 3, 7.
Decree on signs in the sun and moon ..... June 11.
Board of Astronomy on the sun and moon..... June 25.
Exorcism of girl possessed by evil spirits ..... Aug. 20.
God of Wind—Token of gratitude applied for ..... Nov. 28.

METEOROLOGY.

Direction of Wind on New-Year's day	Feb. 2.
Fall of Snow, Peking	Jan. 30, Feb. 25, Nov. 12.
Fall of Rain, Peking	April 19, 22, 27, May 11, 30, June 10, 15, July 23.
Rain in Honan	May 12, June 11.
Do. Shansi	May 16, 22, June 6.
Do. Shênsi	May 21, June 12.
Do. Chihli	June 10.
Decree on alleged signs in sun and moon	June 11.
Board of Astronomy on meteorological phenomena	June 25.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Ch'ên Lan-pin—Had audience of leave	March 12.
Tsung-li Yamên—Recommendation of Secretaries for services in connection with the Treaty revision, &c.	May 26.
German breech-loading guns—Tso Tsung-t'ang's opinion of	June 13.
Tsêng Ki-tséh—Audience of leave	Sept. 24.
Foreign contributions to famine fund	Nov. 7.
Foreigners at Wênchow	Dec. 12.

COREA AND JAPAN.

Shipwrecked Coreans at Chusan	July 23.
Do. do. Foochow	Aug. 20.
Patrol of Corean Frontier	Sept. 5.

LIU-CH'IU.

Shipwrecked natives sent off from Foochow	Jan. 8, Aug. 19.
Do. ,, arrived at Foochow	Sept. 20.

ANNAM AND ABORIGINES.

Capture of Chinese Brigands in Annamese territory	March 17.
Arrival of Annamese Mission in Kwangsi	March 31.

TIBET.

Officials proceeding to Lassa via Szech'wan	Jan. 13.
Tribute-bearing Mission	March 23, April 6.
Dalai Lama, Presents to	July 5.
Shêng Jung, Commissary—Term of Office extended	Aug. 21.
Commissary at Chamdo dismissed	Sept. 15.

ARSENALS, STEAM VESSELS, &c.

China Merchants' Steam Navigation Co.—Freight for...	March 2.
Do. do. do. Yeh Ting-ch'un appointed Superintendent	Sept. 7.

SUNGARIA AND KASHGARIA.

Aksu and Urh captured—Decree announcing	Jan. 3.
Uliasutai—Relief of troops for	Jan. 9.
Precautions against rebels	July 6.
Ngo-lo-ho-pu retires	July 7.
Ch'un Fu takes Office	July 7.
Urga—Agent granted two months' congé	March 7.
Horses for cavalry	July 12.

Urumtsi—Yü She named Acting Military Lieut.-Governor ..... Feb. 13.
Hami—Rescue of Mongolian Princess ..... March 9, May 22.
Ili—Brigade-General permitted to retire ..... March 1.
Remains of former governors recovered ..... Sept. 7, 20.
Charges against Mu Tung-ah ..... Nov. 26.
Kharashar—Acting Agent—Appointment postponed ... June 27.
Kurkara Usa—Commandant retires ..... March 7.
Kashgar—Capture of ..... March 16.
Rewards conferred ..... March 17.
Announcement to late Emperor ..... March 17.
Rewards conferred ..... March 18.
Title of Commander-in-chief altered ..... July 4.
Turfan—Recommendation of successor to order of *Daidji*. March 13.
Reward to Mongol Chieftain ..... March 18.
New Dominion—Loan from Shantung for expenses of re-organization ..... June 9.
Division of the country into prefectures and districts ... July 1.
Tarbagatai—Operations against rebels—Rewards conferred ..... Dec. 13.

MANCHURIA, MONGOLIA AND PROVINCES.

Manchuria (Kirin and Amur.)

Kirin—Fu Ho appointed Brigade-General at Altchuk'a. Jan. 26.
Expedition in search of banditti ..... May 23.
Charges against Manchu captain ..... June 7.
Capture of mounted banditti ..... July 17.
Memorial on taxation ..... Sept. 7.
Winter Hunt—Permission to forego ..... Oct. 19.
Capture of notorious brigand ..... Oct. 31.
Reorganisation of civil administration ..... Nov. 8.
Governor sent on special mission to the Amur... Nov. 16.
Tsi-tsi-har—Retention of force for suppression of brigandage ..... March 8.
Extra allowance for cavalry ..... March 8.
Rape by son of bannerman ..... July 29.
Conviction of horse stealers ..... Aug. 5.

Province of Sheng King.

Moukden—Imperial Library examined ..... Feb. 21.
Purchase of land by official under assumed name ..... March 7, July 11.
Forgery of official seals ..... March 7.
Posthumous title for Tu Hing-ah ..... March 10.
Appeal by daughter of Grand Secretary Wensiang ..... June 15, July 11.
Fêng-t'ien—Official complicity with brigands ..... Jan. 6.
Officials applied for ..... March 11.
Immigration of Imperial clansmen—Scheme abandoned ..... July 3.
Ching-tu Fu—Charges against prefect dismissed ..... July 3.
Proposed system of land tenure ..... Nov. 23.

MONGOLIA.

Dzassak deprived of seals ..... March 17.
Peacock's feather for *Daidji* ..... March 18.
Jeh-ho—Lieut.-Governor applies for Secretary conversant with Mongolian ..... May 6.
Administrators of Mongol tribe dismissed ..... July 14.
Taxation of land in Imperial Reserves ..... July 15.
Judicial administration—Unsatisfactory condition of ..... Dec. 18.
Uliasu-t'ai—Mongolian prince returns thanks for permission to succeed to title .... June 30.
Inspection of Kalka tribe ..... Dec. 11.
Ulan Ch'ap League—Case of disputed succession ..... July 13.
Kharach'in Tabunang—Oppression by ..... July 18.
Postal route, Alashan territory, abandoned ..... Aug. 1.
K'obdo—Pao Ying, Military Assist. Governor has leave to retire .... Aug. 3.
Ts'ing An Military Assist. Governor ..... Aug. 4.
Urga—Observations en route by Imperial Agent ..... Sept. 26.
Disposition of troops ..... Sept. 26.
Urumtsi—Kung T'ang, Commandant of Forces, assumes office .... Oct. 6.
Kung T'ang acts as Lieut.-General ..... Nov. 13.

CHIH-LI.

Famine refugees at Tientsin burnt to death .... Jan. 20, Feb. 14, April 1.
Return of Judicial cases ..... April 8.
Establishment of house of detention for witnesses at Pao-ting Fu ..... July 15.
Financial Commissioner assumes office ..... Sept. 4.
Governor-General returns to Pao-ting ..... Dec. 8.
Peking—Burglaries at ..... March 14.
Destruction by fire of Draft Office ..... April 3.
Commercial panic ..... June 2, July 8.
Manufacture of spurious cash ..... July 11.
Fire at Granary ..... Nov. 13, Dec. 1.
Burglaries—Rewards to gentry for aid in arrests ..... May 5.
Sha-ho—Discovery of buried treasure ..... May 8, 28.

SHANTUNG.

Contributions to Honan and Shansi ..... May 13.
Loan for re-organization of Kashgaria ..... June 9.
Loss of grain junk ... . June 11.
Partial destruction of temble on Tai Shan ..... July 8.
Report on condition of province ..... Sept. 14.
Report on Spirit Trade ..... Nov. 13.
Escape of Captain who killed two civilians ..... Dec. 13.

SHANSI.

Renewed entreaty for supply of grain ..... Jan. 8.
Memorial Boards for parents of Yang Yoh-yün late Governor-General Shênsi, &c. ..... July 11.
Remission of taxes ..... Sept. 11.
Suicide of district Magistrate and his wife ..... Oct. 17.
Hieh Yün-shêng—Assumes office ..... Nov. 29.

Important Mem on Reforms waste land Taxes personal Service } July 21

HONAN.

Officials denounced by Censor	Jan. 13.
Li Hoh-nien took Seal of Office	Feb. 11.
T'uh Tsung-ying takes Seals of Office	June 4.
Chang P'ei-lun on corruption	June 11.
Censor K'ung Hien-ki on corruption	July 16.
Ch'eng Fu appointed Financial Commissioner	Nov. 17.
Tê Sin appointed Judge	Nov. 17.

SHENSI.

Governor denounced by Censor	Jan. 5.
Governor again denounced ; explanation called for	Feb. 22.
Arrears to Troops	May 13.
Victims of Rebellion, 1862, Marks of compassion applied for	June 8.
Treasurer Kiang Ning-hio retires	July 31, Aug. 15.

KANSUH.

Services of Wu Ta-ch'êng, Ch'ang Shun, &c., applied for	Jan. 10.
Mutiny of irregular Troops	Mar. 23.
Suppression of poppy cultivation	Aug. 18.

KIANGSI.

Liu Ping-chang, Governor, retires	Aug. 20.
Li Wen-min appointed Governor	Aug. 21.
Foundling Hospital for female infants	Aug. 25.
Revision of Topography	Sept. 3.
Shên Pao-king Acting Judge	Sept. 3.

NGANHWEI.

Defalcations in Land-tax	Aug. 7.
Marks of Imperial compassion for Victims of Rebellion	Aug. 14.
Governor makes tour of Military inspection	Aug. 31.
Stockades, gradual demolition	Nov. 12.
Repudiation of Signature by Taotai	Nov. 12.

KIANGSU.

Deficiencies in balance of seven officials	Mar. 7.
Appropriation of funds for capture of Locusts	May 1.
Funds lent to Honan	May 10.
Shanghai, official biography of late Taotai sanctioned	July 18.
Return of Governor-General to office, &c.	July 24.
Locusts, Temple to God of	Aug. 28,
Sü Ying-yung appointed Judge	Nov. 17.
Tsung-ming district vacancy	Nov. 24.
T'ao-shan do. do.	Nov. 24.

CHEKIANG.

Publication of libellous pamphlet	May 11.
Assault on shopkeeper by Manchu soldier	June 16, Sept. 3, Oct. 24.
Shipwrecked Coreans at Chusan	July 23.
Floods in three prefectures	Aug. 17.
Rising in K'ü-shan	Sept. 18.
Silk tax for famine fund	Oct. 29.
Unruliness of the soldiery	Nov. 27.

FUHKIEN.

Enquiry respecting attempt to bribe Governor ..... Jan. 18.
Excessive rain—results of ..... April 15.
One month's congé to Governor-General ..... June 21.
Do. do. Expiry of ..... Aug. 9.
Wu Tsan-ch'êng, acts as Governor..... Sept. 15.

FORMOSA.

Charges in Military administration ..... March 6.
Hurricane at T'aiwan Fu..... July 15, 30.
Examinations at T'aiwan..... Sept. 22.
Submission of savages ..... Nov. 17.
Travelling expenses for Governor of Fuhkien..... Dec. 2.

KWANGTUNG AND KWANGSI.

I'ch'eng, accidental homicide at ..... Jan. 6.
Yang-yü-k'o, Brigade-General, exchange proposed ..... Jan. 19.
Liu Kw'un-yi—One month's congé ..... Aug. 8.
Ch'eng Fu—Judl. Comm. Kwangtung, takes office ..... Nov. 9.
Kin Kwoh-shên appointed Judicial Commissioner ..... Nov. 17.

HU KWANG.

Hupeh—Lawless conduct at Fan-k'ow ..... Feb. 7.
Governor Shao Hêng-yü takes office ..... Feb. 22.
Suspicious death of old man in Chu-ki district. July 19.
Persons killed in mistake for banditti ..... July 21.
Hunan—Governor Shao Hêng-yü takes office ..... Aug. 28.
Ma Ju-lung—Commander-in-chief, retires ..... Sept. 5.

SZECH'WAN.

Proposals respecting salt trade ..... March 30.
Do. do. (and Note)..... April 9.
Reward of filial devotion ..... April 26.
Defalcations of subordinate officials ..... May 17.
Denunciation of district Magistrate..... May 17.
Operations against salt smugglers and banditti ..... June 22.
Rewards of filial devotion ..... Oct. 11.
High officers sent on special mission from Peking..... Oct. 21.
Tour of inspection by Governor-General ..... Dec. 26.

KWEICHOW.

Imperial favors bestowed on centenarians..... Aug. 14.
Robberies at Tu-shan-chow ..... Dec. 7.

YUNNAN.

P'an Ting-sin hands over seal of office..... Feb. 3.
Tu Jui-lien takes seal as Acting Governor ..... Feb. 3.
Lekin collectorate—Defective supervision ..... March 24.
Salt smugglers—Rewards to officials for capture of ..... June 7.
Governor-General—Charges against..... July 10.
Contract for copper—Major fails to execute ..... July 10.
Report on agricultural condition of province..... Aug. 25.
T'êng-yüeh—Brigade-General ordered to ..... Sept. 19.
Li Tê-wu, judge, takes office..... Dec. 7.
Waste lands—Cultivation of, &c..... Dec. 10.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTE.

1878.

Jan. 1st.—A decree acknowledging the presentation of a report by the Board of Punishments, on a case of adultery and murder reported from the Han-ch'wan district in Hupeh. A prisoner named Chu Kung-yün has been tried on the charge of murdering his cousin, Chu Kung-ying, at the instigation of the latter's wife, his paramour. The sentence submitted is confirmed, viz., that the guilty woman be forthwith executed by the *ling-ch'e* process (slicing to death), and Chu Kung-yün be forthwith decapitated. In the Board's memorial the name of the Governor-General of Hupeh, Li Han-chang, is written erroneously as Li Hoh-nien. This is a gross act of carelessness. Let the name of the Secretary in charge of this report be ascertained and handed to the Board of Civil Office for the adjudication of a penalty. Penalties are furthermore to be adjudged against the superior officers at the head of the department.

Jan. 2nd.—(1) A decree. Let Li Yüan-hwa vacate his office as Lieutenant-Governor of Shantung, and come to Peking to await other employment. Let Yü Sze-shu 余思樞 (at present Judicial Commissioner in Kweichow) succeed to the office thus vacated; and let Wu Têh-p'u (at present Grain Intendant in Kweichow) succed him.

(2) A Decree. The Prince of Tun and his colleagues report, on the completion of the [new recension of the] Imperial Genealogical Roll, that the binding of the copy destined to be reverently transported to Moukden and preserved with due respect in the archives there, is now completed. Inasmuch as the Annals of the reign of his late Majesty and the Compendium of his Majesty's decrees are now in process of compilation, We command that on the accomplishment of this task the whole of the records above-named be forwarded at one time to Moukden.

(3) A decree taking to task the responsible officials of the Grand Secretariat for the omission of a word in the translation (from the Manchu) of a slip containing the Imperial rescript to a report presented by Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, with reference to a case of murder at Kwei-hwa Ch'êng.

Jan. 3rd.—(1) A decree. Let Sung Ch'ang 松長 succeed to the post of Grain Intendant of the province of Kweichow.

(2) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a memorial in which Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc., reports that the government troops have pursued and victoriously engaged the rebellious Mohammedans, and have recovered possession, successively, of the cities of Aksu and Ush. In the campaign for the recovery of the region of Turkestan (or Kashgaria, *Sin Kiang Nan Lu*) upon which the army has been engaged, since the recapture of Karashar, Kuché, and the adjacent cities, the Taotai Liu Kin-t'ang has advanced at the head of the forces under his command, making a rapid march toward the west, and during the period from the 21st to the 26th October he followed up the bands respectively headed by the Kokandian and by Bayen Hu, which were pursued and victoriously engaged, repeated successes crowning his arms, with losses inflicted upon the rebels to the number of several thousands. The two cities of Aksu and Ush were successively recovered, and the Mussulman population tendered their allegiance in numbers beyond computation. The movements of the army have been alike rapid and successful, and they have exalted in a high degree the prowess of Our military forces. Let Tso Tsung-t'ang continue to lay injunctions upon Liu Kin-t'ang and the other commanders with him, that they proceed with all prudent care to effect the remainder of the work of conquest, and that they bring their great achievement without delay to a successful conclusion by the capture of Bayen Hu and the rest [of the rebel leaders.] Whereas, on the present occasion, Our forces that have been arrayed for the campaign in the West, whose path has lain amid the boundless waste and under the rigours of an icy season, have within the space of a single month accomplished a march of upwards of

one thousand miles in length, recovering possession of the four cities of Karashar, Kuché, Aksu, and Ush, thus restoring already to Our rule the half of the southern portion of the New Dominion, it behoves Us to mete out appropriate tokens of Our bounty, in reward for the zeal displayed by Our forces in the execution of their duty. We command that Liu Kin-t'ang do vacate his post as a Taotai and become expectant of appointment to office in the rank of sub-Director of a minor metropolitan department of the third grade. (Here follows a long list of promotions and honours conferred upon the principal military leaders, beginning with General T'an Pa-ts'ui.) Posthumous honours are farther decreed on behalf of the officers killed in action, who are enumerated as follows, viz :—1 Brigade-General, 2 Colonels, 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 first Captain, 2 second Captains, 1 brevet second Captain, 3 lieutenants, 2 sergeants. (With reference to this list of officers killed, it is desirable to bear in mind that the superior grades of the military service are lavishly conferred, under the system of "recommendations" which takes, in a great measure, the place of pay in the Chinese army, and that such a case as that of a "Sergeant and General by brevet" is not without precedent.)

(3) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, in a postscript memorial, represents with reference to his liability to suffer regularly at the approach of winter from an attack of bronchitis, that during the present season he has been more than ever sensitive to cold, and scarcely able to go out of doors. His lower limbs refuse to support their burden, and he has difficulty in both kneeling and making obeisances. He breathes with difficulty at night, and is unable to sleep. It constantly occurs that after 3 a.m. he is obliged to sit up to look for the dawn of day. He sees his subordinates on business in his sleeping apartment, and with the exception of such matters the decision upon which is given in his own hand, he is unable to attend personally to affairs. He is now constrained to ask a congé of one month, to enable him to devote himself to the care of his health. —Granted by rescript.

(4) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two-kiang, memorializes soliciting an alteration in the mode of treatment at present extended by law to the two classes of persons known as *Wu-tso* 作仵 (corpse examiners) and *ma-k'wai* 馬快 (constables, or thief-takers), as a matter of importance to the interests of good government. He represents the impossibility of securing either honesty or efficiency from these classes of employés, whose functions are nevertheless extremely important, so long as they are treated as vile in degree and unworthy of advancement. That the offspring of courtesans and players should be debarred from honourable careers is a condition from which those exposed to it have no recourse; but in the case of individuals employed in the service of public departments, however much their occupations may be of a sordid and laborious nature, yet the business in which their daily lives are spent is, after all, the service either of the state or of the people. It is an impossibility to dispense with their presence in any part of the Empire; and under these circumstances is it not a contradiction to the endeavour to obtain purity of government that such individuals should be cut off from the privileges of their fellow men even before they have committed a wrongful act? Moreover, the fact should be considered that no uneducated person can fulfil the functions of a corpse-examiner, and that no one who is not qualified to serve in the profession of arms can discharge the duties of a police constable. In respect of the former class, the decision in cases of murder wholly depends upon the report as to the wounds upon the body under view. If any mis-statement be made in this respect, Rhadamanthus himself would be at fault. The manual of the corpse-examiner *(Si Yüan Luh)* is a work of a very profound nature, and its contents are not indiscriminately to be relied upon. It requires to be construed with intelligence. Where men who have taken high literary degrees, and official writers of respectable position after toiling over the work by day and night, may well shrink back affrighted by its difficulties, if a corpse-examiner, devoid of all feeling of self-respect, falsifies evidence and makes right into wrong, where shall the injured party look for redress?—On the other hand, as regards the class of police-constables, the risks they are called upon to run in the execution of warrants of arrest are on a par with those which a soldier faces in battle. If such men be weak and timid, it were folly to expect them to personify the terror of the law, or to hope that the streets and market-places will be otherwise than dens of thieves. It has been observed that, since the corpse-examiner traffics in his inquest, and the constable in matters of judicial process, were openings of advancement now to be

afforded to such men, it would be tant-amount to encouraging the breed of tigers and adding the means of flight to their powers. In answer to this objection, it may be urged that the opportunities of the literary career are not abolished because litigation is undeniably fomented here and there by graduates, nor are the soldiery debarred from promotion because outrages are committed from time to time by the military. The memorialist would therefore urge that the class of corpse-examiners may be admitted to an equal status with that of the clerks—*shu-li* 書吏—employed in the judicial department of the magistracies, as regards the opportunity of obtaining official advancement, and that police-constables be similarly placed on the footing enjoyed in this respect by the soldiery. By so doing, the inborn sense of right may be awakened within them, and they may be led by a sentiment of self respect to develope a regard for honourable conduct, such as must prove conducive to the interests of reform in the manner of dealing with cases of homicide and of robbery and brigandage.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned consider and report to Us.

Jan. 4th.—(1) A decree referring for immediate consideration on the part of the high authorities of the capital a proposition submited by Li Hung-chang with reference to the supply of grain to the population of the capital. He suggests that either official agencies be established, as originally proposed, outside the East and South-east gates, for the sale of grain at reduced prices, or else that private dealers be allowed to purchase supplies from Government for the purposes of resale.

(2) A rescript appointing Chang Yün-k'ing 張雲卿 (at present Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu) to the vacant post of Vice-Director of the Imperial Clan Court.

(3) A decree ordaining a farther series of intercessory services in supplication for a fall of snow, to be held on the 6th instant, in view of the protracted absence of moisture. His Majesty will himself offer incense at the Ta Kao-tien.

(4) The Court of Censors memorialize forwarding the text of an appeal lodged by an agent representing the widow Lin Tai-she, of Fuhkien, once more entreating justice for the murder of her son, which has remained for eight years unredressed. The complainant, who is 87 years of age and the mother of a former General-in-chief of the land forces in Fuhkien, who lost his life in the operations against the rebels at Changchow in 1864, repeats the wording of her previous allegations, as published in the *Gazette* of 30th March, 1876. Her complaint is to the effect that her second son, Lin Wên-ming was murdered in 1869 by the then Prefect, Ling Ting-kwoh, in combination with the Magistrate of the Chang-hwa district, Wang Wên-k'i by name, after an ineffectual attempt on the part of Ling Ting-kwoh to squeeze him of a sum of $8,000, with which intent a document bearing the seal of the then Taotai of Formosa, Li Chao-t'ang (at present Taotai at Tientsin), threatening him with death, was produced. After a succession of abortive attempts to obtain justice from the provincial government, appeal was lodged at Peking in 1876, and upon this a decree was issued commanding the Governor, Ting Jih-ch'ang, to investigate the case. The appellant having made repeated application, in consequence, for a hearing, the officer appointed to deal with the case, Chung Hung-kw'ei 鍾鴻遠 by name, has twice sat for the purpose of taking the evidence; but he has not allowed a word to be said about the Taotai's proclamations or about the treacherous act of murder committed. All he has done has been to endeavour to persuade the appellant to consent to a dismissal of the charge. Appellant hereupon personally saw the Prefect of Foochow, and exposed her griefs to that authority, who gave it as his opinion that the matter was of too grave a nature to be disposed of by the Commissioner appointed to take evidence; and he applied to the Governor to hear the case himself. The Governor ordered the Commissioners of Finance and Justice to look into the matter, and these authorities passed the instructions on to the Prefect once more. Referred in this manner from pillar to post, the case has dragged on interminably, with no prospect of redress; and, once more inveighing against Ling Ting-kwoh as the murderer of her son, and declaring that irrefragable proofs of the fact are forthcoming, the appellant lodges a renewed entreaty for justice in the hands of the Censorate.—Rescript again commanding the high authorities of Fuhkien to investigate the case, already published. (Note. The accused, Ling Ting-kwoh, is the official already dismissed the public service for peculation in connection with the expenditure on the fortifications erected at An-p'ing.—See *Gazette* of 7th May, 1876).

Jan. 5th.—(1) A decree. Let P'êng Tsu-hien 彭祖賢 succeed to the post of Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu.

(2) Chang P'ei-lun, Assistant Reader of the Hanlin College, memorializes accusing the Governor of Shensi, T'an Chung-lin, of making use of unwarrantable and insubordinate language in the explanation he has submitted to the Throne with reference to the condition of affairs in his province; and it is solicited that he be, at the least, sternly reprimanded for his disrespectful conduct.—For decree in reply see *Gazette* of Dec. 17th 1877.

(3) Wên Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transportation system, begs leave to add, in a postscript memorial, that Liu Hien, Taotai of the Hwai-ngan and Yang-chow Intendency, holding brevet rank as a Financial Commissioner, is an officer who has long been employed on the southern division of the Grand Canal, and who is thoroughly versed in the questions of policy which relate thereto. In all matters connected with the requirements of annual repair or of protection against destruction of the embankments in times of sudden danger, he has shewn himself careful in the direction of labour and economical in outlay. His proceedings have been in all respects commendable, and in addition to this, he has not failed in the duty of attending to the instruction of the troops employed in the service nor in that of rectifying abuses of long standing.—(Here follows the commendation, in similar terms, of another official.)—It is humbly requested that sanction may be given to the proposal now submitted for the bestowal of a distinguished form of reward upon the officers in question, by way of encouragement to farther exertions. Rescript: "Perused." (Note.—The official thus highly commended by Wên Pin is the same who was lately denounced by the Governor-General Shên Pao-chêng, and dismissed in consequence from the public service, as a notorious smoker of opium. See *Gazettes* of 2nd and 20th Dec., 1877).

Jan. 6th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Ch'ung How, Governor-General of Fêng-t'ien, who has denounced two Manchu subalterns for complicity with the mounted brigands infesting that province. One of the delinquents, being related by marriage to a cousin of one of these depredators, on the latter being captured and imprisoned, had the audacity to stand security for the criminal's release; and in the second case, a captain named Min Têh-fuh allowed his brother to harbour a certain notorious brigand chief, besides which he entertained the project of furnishing supplies of firearms to the robbers. The two incriminated officers are hereupon cashiered and sentenced to transportation into servitude upon the military postroads.

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Kwang and the Governor of Kiangsu memorialize reporting the sentence pronounced in the case of a military officer charged with an unintentional act of homicide in the discharge of his official functions. The case occurred at the city of I-ch'êng, where, in July last, a certain individual named Ts'ien Têh-kwei raised an uproar in connection with the employment of a band of musicians for a procession intended to do honour to a departing district Magistrate. The man Ts'ien interfered with the musicians engaged, and a tumult ensued in consequence of his clamour and violence, to quell which the officers in command of the detachment of braves at the place, a brevet Brigade-General named Wang Sien-chên, and a brevet captain named Chao Wên-kao, came forward. Both these officers struck the man with their whips, and continued beating him for some time until, yielding to the entreaty of the musicians, they let him go; but as he stumbled away his trowsers caught the point of Chao Wen-kao's boot, and Chao, raising his foot, unintentionally gave him a kick. The man was assisted to his home, and he died on the following day from the effect of the injuries received. The statute law comprises three forms of penalty applicable to this case, as regards the various individuals concerned. The first runs to the effect that "whosoever shall cause the death of any man by blows inflicted in a broil, whether the same be dealt with the hand, foot, or any other object, or with a weapon of metal or a sword, shall suffer death by strangling after imprisonment to await confirmation of the sentence." The second form provides the penalty of 20 stripes in the case of any one who shall strike another with hand or foot without inflicting an actual wound;" and the third is the proviso according to which 80 blows are made the penalty for general wrongdoing of an aggravated description. The severest form of penalty has now been pronounced upon the offending military officer found guilty of causing the death of Ts'ien Têh-kwei, and he is sentenced to suffer strangulation in despite of his appeal for a more lenient sentence, on the ground that he is almost the only son of aged parents. This is rejected on the ground that the deceased man was himself an only son, and that his parents are left with no one to attend upon them. A minor penalty is denounced against a petty civilian

functionary who took part in the affair; and it is solicited that the Brigade-General, whose duty it was to have been more careful, be stripped of his rank.—The judicial sentences are referred by rescript to the Board of Punishments for consideration. The Brigade-General Wang Sien-chên is stripped of his rank but left in office.

(3) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, etc., memorializes with reference to the collection of contributions on behalf of the requirements of famine-relief in the province of Shansi, to assist in the management of which he has been commissioned by decree. The extent of country afflicted, he represents, is so vast and the length of time to be provided for so protracted, that unless subscriptions be encouraged on an extensive scale the funds provided can scarcely be more than a drop in the bucket. Without referring more minutely at present to the results obtained at the ports of Tientsin, Shanghai, Hankow, and Ningpo, to the authorities of which, as important trading centres, requisitions have been sent for the establishment of collecting agencies, and by the officials and notables of which places sums have already been raised, though to no considerable amount as yet, it has now particularly to be reported that, in view of the character for liberality and public spirit which has always distinguished the notables and mercantile class of Ch'ao-chow Fu, on the coast of Kwangtung, the memorialist wrote some time ago to Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien (a native of that prefecture and now residing there), requesting him to exhort the authorities and notables of his own locality to unite their efforts in the cause. The Taotai of that Intendancy, Chang Sien, has now reported to the memorialist that on receipt of his despatch on this subject, he had proceeded at once to Swatow (the port of Ch'ao-chow Fu), where an official committee formed under his direction succeeded by dint of active efforts in raising contributions to the sum of 20,000 dollars, equivalent to Taels 14,000. In addition to this, subscriptions were farther to be solicited at Ampu, Ch'êng-hai, and the other towns in the neighbourhood. At Hongkong, Singapore, and in Annan and Siam, moreover, the number of Ch'ao-chow (Tiechiu) traders is notably great; and two officials, the expectant Prefect K'o Chên-tsien 柯振捷 and the expectant sub-Prefect Kao T'ing-k'iei 高廷楷, are named as especially conversant with the localities in question. It is proposed that they should nominate trustworthy official agents to proceed thither for the purpose of soliciting contributions, and it is requested that certificates of rank and office may be forwarded to Ch'ao-chow Fu for issue to subscribers, in redemption of the pledge held forth in this respect. On receipt of this communication from the Taotai Chang-sien, to whose popularity in Ch'ao-chow Fu, where he has held his present office for upwards of ten years past, the results now obtained are ascribed, the memorialist submits a report of what has already been accomplished, and he will hereafter solicit rewards on a distinguished scale on behalf of the officials who have exerted themselves in this matter. He writes also to the Governor of Shansi desiring him to send forward a supply of the required certificates to be offered for sale to contributors.

Jan. 7th—A decree. Let Hwang Yüh-gnên 黃毓恩 succeed to the post of Prefect of Kw'ei-chow Fu in Sze-ch'wan.

Jan. 8th.—(1) A decree making the following administrative changes:—

a. Leh Fang-k'i 勒方錡 to be transferred from the appointment lately conferred upon him, as Lieutenant-Governor *(Fant'ai)* of Kwangsi, to fill the same office in Kiangsu; *b*. Fan Liang 范梁 to be promoted to the post of Lieutenant-Governor of Kwangsi; and *c*. Li Chao-t'ang 黎兆棠, at present Taotai Superintendent of Customs at Tientsin, to become Judicial Commissioner of Chihli in his stead.

(2) The Governor of Shansi, Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, and the special High Commissioner for the inspection of famine relief, Yen Kin-ming, jointly memorialize reiterating the request preferred some time since for the appropriation of 60,000 piculs of the grain tribute prospectively due from the provinces of Kiangsi and Hupeh to Peking for the year 1878, in consideration of the urgent need prevailing in the province of Shansi. Upwards of 80 districts are actually famine-stricken, and some 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 of the population are dependent upon public assistance. The proposal submitted for the additional supply of grain referred to above having been considered by the Board of Revenue, in conformity with the Imperial Decree (see *Gazette* of Nov. 22nd), the Board has negatived it on the ground that the supply of grain to furnish the proper quota for the granaries of the capital is a question of paramount importance. The Board's opinion has received the Imperial sanction,

and has been communicated to the memorialists, who with reluctance submit, under the pressure of overpowering necessity, an entreaty for its reconsideration. The special High Commissioner, after a journey of some 700 to 1,000 miles throughout various parts of the province, draws a moving picture of the signs and sounds of woe which met him at every turn, and he states that he is within the mark in adding that a thousand deaths from starvation occur each day. With reference to the observation that has been made to the effect that the remission of the *likin* tax on grain might be depended upon to attract private enterprise, it is pointed out that the difficulties of transport are so great that at the best of times supplies for this province are only furnished by the adjacent provinces of Shensi and Honan; and that to the proclamations that have been issued urging merchants to come forward, there has been not a single response. The means of the wealthiest inhabitants of the province have been drained by the calamity experienced for the last three years, and for hundreds of *li* at a stretch the entire population is dependent upon official aid.—In reply, the relief asked for is granted by rescript. The Board of Revenue is desired to take note.

(3) The high authorities at Foochow report the departure for their own country of two batches of distressed Liu-ch'iuans, 30 all told, who had been drifted in their junks to the coast of China.

(4) K'ung Ling-i 孔令貽, the successor to the Confucian "dukedom," with the title Yen Shêng Kung 衍聖公 (first conferred in A.D. 1233) memorializes reporting his accession to the title. He received on the 7th October last, a despatch from the Board of Ceremonies, informing him that having submitted his name in due course to the Throne in a report dated the 8th September, a rescript had been received on the 10th September in the words: "Be it as is proposed." On receipt of the despatch to this effect the memorialist, having reverently prepared an altar, had faced himself toward the Imperial residence and had prostrated himself to return thanks for the Imperial bounty; and thereupon, on the 7th November, he took charge of his official seal and assumed the functions incumbent upon him. He proceeds to testify the devotion with which he is inspired toward his Imperial Sovereign, whose bounty has been so conspicuously manifested toward him.—(See *Gazette* of Dec. 10th, 1876.)

Jan. 9th.—(1) A Decree. Let Liao Ch'ang-ming 廖長明 succeed to the post of Brigade-General of Yung-chow, in Hunan.

(2) The Military Governor of Uliasut'ai memorializes with reference to the relief, in ordinary course, of the force of Chinese troops of the regular army stationed at that point. According to rule, the two Brigade commands of Süan-hwa and Ta-t'ung, in Chihli, should detail for the purpose of garrisoning Uliasut'ai a force composed of two second-captains, two lieutenants, three sergeants, one corporal, and 245 privates, including a proportion of mounted men, to be relieved once in five years. At the application of the former acting Military Governor Ch'ang Shun, in 1873, a force of 500 men was ordered to be detailed from Chihli. A portion of the men and officers who were detached in obedience to these instructions have qualified themselves in the knowledge of the Mongol tongue, and it is now requested that the remainder may be relieved according to regulation.

Jan. 10th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shensi, denouncing certain officials who have failed in the due discharge of their duty in the distribution of famine relief. The Magistrate of the Fu-p'ing district is charged with having disregarded the instructions given him to issue a *pro ratâ* allowance of food individually, and to have established relief-centres instead at the advice of certain of the notables. Owing to the large extent of the district and the distances to be traversed, the population was unable to obtain supplies of food, and crowds of complainants came to the provincial capital to represent their case. They stated, additionally, that the notables were in league with the Magistrate's retainers with dishonest intent, in connection with the levy of supplies of wheat. Again, the acting Magistrate of the Kao-ling district is accused of having made false returns of the number of distressed individuals and of grain issued. The district notable Liu Jui-yüh, a member of the local committee of management, and a military licentiate named Kêng She-kw'ei, are also charged with having mutually transferred to each other a quantity of the grain in store, their conduct in this respect exposing them to suspicion of dishonest practices. The Magistrate had failed to detect these proceedings, and had shewn himself to all intents and purposes blind and deaf. Again, on a personal visit being paid by the Governor himself to the relief agency in the southern suburb of the

provincial capital, he found that a number of famine-stricken persons were still seeking a supply of food; and on asking an explanation from the officer in charge he was told that these people, although still asking for food, had already been given allowances of grain, for which reason they had not been entered on the lists. The same agency, however, subsequently reported its supplies as inadequate, the numbers of individuals to be provided for being augmented in two days by upwards of 700 souls. From this it was plain that either present overstatement or past omission was chargeable against the agency. It was reported, moreover, that the attendants had conspired with the flour-dealers to make out false statements of the quantities they received. After dwelling upon the enormity of the offence of neglect of duty under circumstances such as the present, the Imperial decree ordains that the two district Magistrates impeached be forthwith stripped of their rank and brought to trial in conjunction with all the notables concerned in the matter. Should evidence of actual dishonesty be elicited they are to be farther stringently denounced, and the minor offenders referred to are also to be proceeded against.

(2) The Supervising Censor Kwoh Ts'ung-kü memorializes urging the necessity of making provision on a large scale for the necessities of the province of Shansi, the financial exigencies of which are pressing in the extreme. Referring to the appropriations already allotted toward the needs of this province, he proceeds to observe that the winter being already far advanced without snow having fallen, it is impossible to forecast with certainty the prospect of the crops in the coming year, whilst, at the same time, the issue of relief for the present season is itself no easy matter. According to report, the amount hitherto raised by the agencies established by the provincial government of Shansi for the raising of contributions, amounts to no more than from 500,000 to 600,000 taels; and this sum, if divided among the 4,000,000 souls who were lately reported by the Governor of Shansi as in need of relief, gives but about Tl. 0.1.4 per head, or say from one to two hundred *cash*. This amount would represent no more than a pint or two of rice apiece—a quantity wholly disproportionate to the actual needs. At the opening of Spring, moreover, the old stocks of rice will be exhausted and new supplies will not yet have been received; and the utmost endeavours of the provincial Governor to obtain financial assistance from the neighbouring provinces can scarcely be depended upon to be of much service in the emergency. The memorialist consequently solicits that sanction be given to the issue of certificates of the peacock feather decoration—the sale of which was put an end to in 1875—as a means of supplying the requisite funds.—Rescript, referring the proposal for consideration, already published.

(3) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc., etc., in a postscript memorial, dwells upon the desolated condition of the province under his government, and the corrupt condition into which the services, both civil and military, have lapsed. He is grieved at heart by the prevalence of dishonesty and incompetent and unworthy employés. A region so distant and abounding in hardships is shunned by the majority of capable functionaries, whilst the persons of disreputable character and needy antecedents who are ready to flock thither are such as should not be employed. On more than one occasion, when the memorialist has applied for the services of individuals whom he thought likely to be useful, and who at the same time would be put in a position to gain experience fitting them for future duty, his request has failed of acceptance on the score of incompatibility with some standing regulation or other. At the present juncture, when the prosecution of the campaign for the recovery of Kashgaria is daily widening the field of action, increased urgency is felt in the need of capable subordinates; and the memorialist, whilst admitting that there is no lack of brave and honest men among those who are under his own eye, must confess that the number of individuals gifted with broad perceptions and the capacity for dealing with large questions of an administrative nature, is most limited. He asks, therefore, that the following officials may be detailed to serve under his orders. He has heard that Lü Yao-tow 呂耀斗, a Compiler of the Han Lin College, is a person of sterling uprightness and devoted to study of the true art of government; and although personally unknown to, he is highly esteemed by the memorialist from what he has learnt concerning him. Another official of the same degree, Wu Ta-ch'êng 吳大徵, attracted his notice whilst filling the office of Literary Chancellor of the provinces of Shensi and Kansuh, and as in addition to an unusual degree of ability he adds the qualification of being a good horseman and capable of enduring physical exertion, beside having

devoted his attention to frontier affairs; he is indeed one in a thousand. If these two officials be sent to serve with the army and thus gain experience, they are certain to prove useful men hereafter. A third individual is Ch'ang Shun 長順, who acted some time ago as Military Governor of Uliasut'ai, a man of much bodily strength and martial capacity. Owing to want of proper experience he was misled by bad advice and thus incurred censure. The memorialist is unaware, at present, to which of the Banners Ch'ang Shun may be attached; but if he be sent to serve under the memorialist, he will train him with care.—Rescript ordering two of the three officials above-named to proceed forthwith to Kansuh, and Wu Ta-ch'êng to do the same after fulfilment of his present mission in Honan, already published.

Jan. 11th.—No documents of importance.

Jan. 12th.—(1) A decree appointing Yang Fang-kwei 楊芳桂 to the post of Brigade-General of the Nan-yang command in Honan.

(2) A decree allotting a farther grant of 200 piculs of millet to the relief agency established in the west division of Peking, on the representation of the Censors in charge, the former grant of 300 piculs being insufficient in consequence of the influx of destitute persons from remote parts of the country.

(3) A decree awarding honours and promotion to a long list of officials whose names have been submitted by the Prince of Tun and his colleagues of the Commission for revising the Imperial Genealogical Register, on the completion of this task.

Jan. 13th.—(1) A decree based upon a farther memorial on the part of the Censor Li Kia-yoh, who has dwelt upon the charges of illegal imposition of taxes and practices of extortion with which certain district Magistrates in the province of Honan have been charged, and demanding that commands be issued for the stringent impeachment of all such offenders. The conduct exposed by the Censor is severely reprobated, and any instances of its occurrence are, it is commanded, to be reported without fail by the high authorities concerned.

(2) Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Hu Kwang, memorializes reporting a case of adultery and murder, the victims being the husband of the guilty woman, whose paramour, the instigator to the commission of the crime, was a cousin of her husband. On trial being held and the facts of the case established, sentence has been pronounced as follows:—The woman, without taking into account the lesser crime of adultery with a relative within a certain degree of kinship, is condemned to suffer death by the lingering or "slicing" process (*ling ch'e*); and her paramour to decapitation without awaiting the period of revision.—For rescript referring these sentences to the Board of Punishments for consideration, see *Gazette* of 1st instant.

(3) Sun-kwei, resident at Lassa, memorializes with reference to the mission of two officers of the Imperial guards, who were despatched with a party of lamas to present a tribute of Imperial respect in Tibet. The officers in question set out from Ch'êng-tu Fu, the capital of Sze-ch'wan, on the 23rd of June; and a report has been received from the sub-Prefect stationed at Ta-tsien Lu to the effect that they arrived at that point on the 19th July and the 19th August respectively. On the 14th and 19th September they proceeded to cross the frontier, carrying with them the Imperial gifts with which they are charged. They had been supplied with all that was needful in the way of coolies, pack-horses, etc.

Jan. 14th—(1) A decree referring to the intercessory services that have already been held, on the 28th December and on the 8th instant, for the purpose of entreating, but without result, the fall of snow which is so anxiously looked for. It is now commanded that a special service be held on the 16th instant by a party of Taoist priests from the members attached to the Kwang Ming Tien. Incense is at the same time to be offered at the principal State temples, by the Imperial princes.

Jan. 15th—A decree in answer to a memorial from the Imperial Household, reporting that Wên-kwei, Superintendent of the Imperial manufactory at Hangchow, has been placed in mourning by the death of a parent, and soliciting instructions. It is commanded hereupon that Wên-kwei return to Peking to wear the 100 days' mourning (prescribed by Manchu custom), after which he is to go back to his post. During his absence, the Governor of Chehkiang, Mei K'i-chao, will act in his stead.

No other documents of importance.

Jan. 16th—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Hu-kwang, who has denounced two officials for misconduct in connection with the levy of the *lekin* tax. In the one case an expectant Prefect named Wang Sih-k'ang is accused of having

entrusted a relative named Wang Yüan-k'iei, with the functions of examiner of merchandize and of controller of receipts, in which capacity he perpetrated numerous acts of abuse, entailing public dissatisfaction. In the other, an expectant sub-Assistant District Magistrate, named Kin Hioh-min, is charged with having neglected his duties and behaved in a loose and flighty manner. The first of the two officials under impeachment is handed to the Board for adjudication of a penalty. The other is dismissed from his rank in the public service.

(2) Yen King-ming, special High Commissioner for the superintendence of the arrangements for famine-relief in Shansi, submits a farther report of his proceedings and investigations, having now traversed the eastern division of the province, and reached the district city of Yün-ch'êng. He received on the 8th December, at Kao-p'ing, the Imperial rescript acknowledging the receipt of his earlier report on the western section of the province; but previously to this, on the 29th November, he had set out from T'ai-yüan Fu, the provincial capital, on his journey eastward. In the Wu-hiang and Ts'in Chow districts he found that the soil of the uplands was baked to the consistency of brick, and that there had been no autumn crop. The relief agency had but lately been set in operation, and the distressed population had gathered around it awaiting succour. The country lying west of Ts'in Chow was in the same condition. Turning southwards through Lu-ngan Fu, he found that the winter wheat had not been planted, and that the country, its own provisions of grain exhausted, was depending upon the importations from Kwang-p'ing Fu in Chihli, by way of Tung-yang Kwan. Flour was selling at 60 or 70 *cash* per *catty*, which is three or four times the ordinary price. In Li-ch'êng, Lu-ch'êng, and Ch'ang-tsze, the suffering from drought had been somewhat less; but the price of provisions was not diminished, and the population was suffering in an extraordinary degree. Passing through the south-eastern border districts of the province, the memorialist proceeded westwards to Yang-ch'êng, Ts'in-shui, etc., in which districts the suffering was found to be still more intense than in Ts'in Chow and Lu-ngan. At Fêng-t'ai it was found that 250,000 was the number of applicants for relief, and at Yang-ch'êng 180,000 individuals were in the same category. These two points are the centres at which the largest numbers are collected. Generally speaking, the country embraced within Ts'in Chow, Lu-ngan Fu, and Tsêh Chow is for the most part hilly and cultivated to a comparatively small extent. The population is principally engaged in the iron industry; and as the furnaces suspend their operations on all sides during a season of distress, the working classes find it all the harder to obtain means of subsistence. There are but few wealthy residents, moreover, in these districts, and local contributions are not easily obtained. For the issue of relief, the principal source of supply is the public granaries, but with such a multitude of mouths to feed, the small store of grain is exhausted in the twinkling of an eye. In Tsêh Chow, as this department borders on Honan, supplies of grain have been received through the agency of the famine commissioner Wu Ta-ch'êng; but the amount thus obtained is limited and cannot suffice for all wants. The district authorities are performing their duties in obedience to the Imperial commands, and are not entrusting their functions to the class of underlings. Although some may be more gifted with ability than others, no complaints are forthcoming of malversation or other malpractices. A salutary warning has been afforded by the Governor's impeachment of some 20 or more of the provincial officials. In conclusion, the memorialist dwells once more upon the painful scenes he has witnessed at every stage of his journey, in the course of which his chair has continually been surrounded by crowds of the famine-stricken population imploring relief, to whom he has administered comfort in soothing words, assuring them of the Imperial sympathy. The roads are lined with corpses, in such numbers as to distance all efforts for their interment; whilst women and children, starving and in rags, know not where to look for the means of keeping body and soul together. The distinctions drawn a short time ago, in respect of the degree of impoverishment in individual cases, has now disappeared. All are equally reduced to utter destitution. The memorialist, his heart wrung with despairing pity, cannot but ask why has a calamity so awful as this been visited upon the people. He can only ascribe it to his own failure in the due discharge of his duty and he feels that his shortcoming admits of no excuse.—In reply, the Grand Council has received a rescript expressing profound sympathy with the sufferings of the people as reported in this memorial, and directing that all that is possible for their relief be done in consultation with the Governor of the province.

Jan. 17th.—No documents of importance.

Jan. 18th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Wang Kia-pih, Civil Vice-Governor and Literary Chancellor of Fêng-t'ien, who has requested that commands may be issued throughout the Empire, in consequence of misapprehensions found to prevail among candidates for the literary examinations, respecting the personal name of his late Majesty, which it is forbidden to write, and the characters having component parts similar to those in the personal name of the present Sovereign. With reference to the character forming the second in the combination Tsai Ch'un, the personal name of his late Majesty, a decree was heretofore issued altering the form of this into 湉 (instead of 淳, the use of which is tabooed); and with reference to the second character in the present Emperor's name, (Tsai T'ien,—see *Gazette* of Jan. 13th, 1875), commands have also heretofore been given for its alteration by omitting the last stroke of which it is composed. There is no necessity, however, for avoiding, as sacred, other characters formed with similar component parts. The Board of Ceremonies is commanded to issue circular instructions on this subject for the guidance of candidates at the literary examinations.

(2) Pao Hêng, acting Governor of Fuh-kien, memorializes reporting the result of an enquiry held in the case of the expectant Prefect Tsiang Fêng-tsao, who was accused last year of an indirect attempt to bribe the Governor, Ting Jih-ch'ang, by forwarding to him confidentially a draft for Taels 1,000, which he requested might be employed at the Governor's discretion in relieving distress. (See *Gazette* of Jan. 15th, 1877.) The suspected official having been subjected to examination, gives the following account of the transaction:—He was at Shanghai last year when contributions were solicited by the Relief Committee at Foochow on account of the distress caused by floods, and as his own means were inadequate to the fulfilment of his wishes on the occasion, he wrote to his kinsfolk and persuaded them to allot the sum of Tls. 1,000 from the income of the family graveyard estate. As it happened, an official named Kin Têh-hung, employed at the Foochow Arsenal, was just leaving by steamer for Foochow, and Tsiang gave him the draft to be handed over on his arrival there. The letter which he intended to send with the money, however, missed the steamer; and Kin, on his arrival, having no knowledge of any of the members of the Committee, forwarded the draft to the Governor direct in the suspicious manner already recorded. The statements made by the accused are found to tally with those contained in Kin's original letter to the Governor, but, although he may be acquitted of the charge of attempting to make interest with the Governor, it is nevertheless plain that he acted in a culpably heedless manner.—In compliance with the recommendation with which the memorial concludes, the name of Tsiang Fêng-tsao is handed to the Board for adjudication of a penalty; and Kin Têh-hung is dismissed from his rank in the public service.

Jan. 19th.—(Court Circular.) Poh Ch'ang 博昌, General commanding the Chinese forces at Urumts'i, had audience of leave.)

(1) A decree. Let Chang Yün-k'ing succeeded to the post of Assistant President of the Court of Censors.—(See *Gazette* of 4th inst. for previous appointment.)

(2) Liu Kwên-yih, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, memorializes soliciting that the Brigade-Generals Chang Têh-luh and Yang Yü-k'o may be allowed to exchange the commands to which they have recently been appointed, the former remaining in Kwangtung, where his services are eminently useful, and Yang Yü-k'o being permitted to assume the command of the Ku Chow division in the province of Kweichow in his stead.—For decree vetoing this proposal, see *Gazette* of Dec. 31st, 1877.

Jan. 20th—(1) A decree appointing K'i Siu 啟秀 to the post of Reader of the Hanlin, and Hing Lien 興廉 to that of Expositor.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, in which report is made of the destruction by fire of one of the buildings occupied by the famine refugees. The building in question, situated outside the east Gate of the city of Tientsin, took fire on the 8th inst., through want of precaution, with a consequent loss of a great number of lives. The conduct of the officials in charge, in respect both of the carelessness they had allowed themselves to indulge in before the event, and their failure when the disaster occurred to provide efficient means of rescue, thus involving in so lamentable a fate the victims who had been saved from the suffering of starvation, is most truly deserving of reprehension. We command that the expectant inspector of the salt department Lü Wei-chang, and the expectant Police Master Ting T'ing-hwang be dismissed from the public service

under sentence of perpetual exclusion. The Customs' Taotai Li Chao-t'ang, the Salt Comptroller Ju Shan, and the Taotai of Tientsin, Liu Ping-lin, who failed to take note betimes of the shortcomings of their subordinates, are to be handed to the Board of Civil Office for the adjudication of the penalties respectively incurred. The same proceeding is to be taken with reference to the Governor-General Li Hung-chang. Orders are subjoined for the bestowal of all needful relief upon the survivors of this calamity, and the proper interment of the remains of the victims destroyed.

(3) Yü Luh, Governor of Nganhwei, in a postscript memorial, refers to the regulations drawn up in 1859 by the Board of Revenue, and sanctioned by rescript, with reference to the duties to be collected from opium. It was ordained that these should be kept under a separate heading in the Customs' accounts, and should be transmitted quarterly accompanied by detailed statements to the Board. The Custom House at Wuhu having been closed for some twenty years and upwards in consequence of the ravages of the rebellion, it was reëstablished only on the 22nd July, 1876, and the receipts on account of opium duty during the first few months after its opening were extremely limited. The Superintendent now reports that having placed the collection in the hands of a special officer, on a system based upon that in force at Kiukiang, some improvement has been experienced as compared with the earlier period; and the total receipts for the twelve months, from July 22nd, 1876, to July 10th, 1877, under this head, have been Tls. 1,498. This report is accordingly submitted in obedience to regulation, and the amount collected is placed as a separate fund to await transmission.

Jan. 21st.—(1 and 2) Decrees based upon memorials from the Censors superintending the western and southern divisions of Peking, respectively, with reference to cases of robbery with violence that have taken place in the suburbs. In one instance a pawnshop situated at some distance from the West Gate was attacked, on the night of the 21st November last, by a band of armed men, who pillaged it of its contents and wounded three of the men employed there. In the other case, a pawnshop situated outside the southwest gate of the Chinese city was similarly attacked, on the 9th November. In neither instance have the perpetrators of the crime been discovered and brought to justice. The police officials concerned are handed, as a preliminary measure, to the Board for adjudication of a penalty; and stringent orders are given for active measures toward the capture of the offenders.

(3) A decree awarding 600 piculs of millet for division between two of the extra relief agencies set on foot in the Chinese city of Peking by private subscription, the amount of grain available being reported by the Censors of the division as unequal to the demands upon these distributing agencies.

(4) The Prince of Tun and his colleagues of the committee of revision memorialize reporting that on completion of the new edition of the Imperial Genealogical Register, the copy, in 44 volumes, which is destined for preservation in the archives at Moukden, has been finally collated and bound. Instructions respecting its transmission are solicited. —See *Gazette* of 2nd inst.

(5) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes with reference to the supply of grain which he had been called upon to provide for issue at reduced rates at Peking, and respecting the method to be followed in offering it for sale. He had previously submitted for sanction his plan of instructing the Taotai Chu K'i-ngang, and his colleagues in the management of the China Merchants' Steamship Company to raise the requisite funds and to purchase supplies of rice in the South, on the arrival of which agencies should be established at selected points to carry out the system, experimentally, of selling at reduced rates; and he had received a rescript in reply, to the effect that further consideration should be given to the question on the arrival of the supplies. There was barely a month left, at this time, before the closing of the Tientsin river; and, under his orders, steps were immediately taken by Chu K'i-ngang and his colleagues for the shipment of cargoes by steamer in quick succession from the South. Before the close of navigation there had been landed, inclusive of the amounts required for the relief of distress in the provinces of Chihli and Shansi, upwards of 100,000 piculs of rice, every grain of which came from the South. (N.B.—Reference is here apparently made to the accusations levelled against the Governor-General's agents, of buying up rice near Peking, which appeared in the *Gazette* of 22nd November, 1877.) Of this amount it was proposed to allot 30,000 piculs for sale at reduced rates at Peking,—an inconsiderable amount, it is true, but time pressed. As the officials of the Company are all southerners and unfamiliar with the condition of affairs at Peking, the memorialist

had appointed two officials of the Chihli staff to undertake the management of matters on the spot. He submits for decision the question whether sales shall be made by official agency, or whether private dealers shall be encouraged to buy from Government for purposes of resale, with permission to make a small profit by the transaction, but under prescribed limits as to price. This, in the memorialist's opinion, would be the simplest and most economical plan, and it would obviate also such a danger as previous experience shews to exist, of robbery of the grain depôts by armed bands.—For rescript, referring this question for deliberation, see *Gazette* of 4th inst.

Jan. 22nd-23rd. —(N.B.—During the month of the Chinese New Year's holidays, the *Gazette* appears, as usual, on alternate days only).

(1) A decree referring to the state of suffering to which the provinces of Shansi and Honan have been reduced by drought and famine, and to the scanty fall of snow which has thus far taken place in both these provinces. Even though a sufficiency of moisture should be experienced later, which would enable the sowing of the spring wheat to be made good, the period for the collection of the first half-year's land tax would be quickly reached, and there is every reason to apprehend that the population would be unable to meet the demands upon it. It is consequently ordained that, in the two provinces of Shansi and Honan, the first half-years' collection of the land and grain taxes of all descriptions be entirely remitted in all the distressed districts for the coming season. The provincial authorities are required to issue a proclamation of this Act of Indulgence, and to punish at once and severely any attempts at concealment or malpractice of any kind on the part of the official underlings.

(2) A decree, referring for consideration on the part of the Board of Revenue, a memorial submitted by the Censor Hu Ping-che, who requests that a rigorous prohibition be enforced against distilling,—in order to obviate a waste [of food-stuffs] and to contribute toward enlarging the means of subsistence available for the population.

(3) A decree, sanctioning a request submitted by the Governor of Shun-tien Fu, who has asked that two additional relief agencies be opened in the neighbourhood of Peking. From the beginning of the approaching first moon (February), the allowance of 120 piculs of millet is to be made to each of these agencies, in addition to the four previously set on foot.

(4) A decree remitting for consideration by the Board of Revenue a memorial in which the Censor Têng King-lin represents that the issue of Government salt for consumption in the province of Shansi has been greatly checked and that smuggling is extremely rife, for which reasons he recommends that a return to the old system of conducting the salt trade through official agencies, both for transportation and sale, be made.

Jan. 24th-25th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Wang Kia-pih, Vice-Governor of Fêng-t'ien, who, with reference to the case of Lin Show-t'u, recently dismissed from his office of Lieutenant-Governor of Shansi on the charge of violating the regulations affecting the remittance of supplies to the army chest of Tso Tsung-t'ang, has requested that the Governor of Shansi be commanded to institute an enquiry for the purpose of ascertaining whether, in reality, the clerks employed under the disgraced official had not purposely kept back documents from his notice with intent to precipitate him into ruin. It is enjoined, hereupon, that knavery of the kind referred to by the memorialist can on no account be suffered to flourish; and all the provincial Governments are commanded to take stringent measures for its prevention. These orders must not, however, be suffered to be made use of by Lin Show-t'u as a means of annulling the sentence of dismissal from the public service already pronounced in his case; and the request preferred for a reëxamination of the question is vetoed.

(2) A decree remitting for consideration by the Board of Revenue conjointly with the memorial submitted to the same effect by the Censor Hu Ping-che (see yesterday's *Gazette*), a proposition on the part of the Governor-General Li Hung-chang for the suspension of all distilling operations in Chihli for the time being.

(3) A decree based upon a memorial from the Governor General Li Hung-chang, who has denounced an Expectant Magistrate named Chu Lih-han, employed in superintending the police of the streets of Tientsin, for the offence of extorting a sum of ransom-money under pretext of having to apprehend certain women of ill-fame. The delinquent is cashiered, with sentence of perpetual exclusion from further employment.

(4) A decree ordaining a further series of supplicatory services to be held on the 26th inst., when his Majesty will offer incense in

person at the Ta Kao Tien, in consequence of the protracted drought in and around Peking.

Jan. 26th-27th.—(1) A Decree. Let Siu Ki 秀吉 come to Peking and await other employment. Let Fu Ho 富和, heretofore stripped of his rank as a Manchu Brigade-General, be invested with the insignia of the third rank, and become acting Brigade-General of Altchuk'a. (N.B.—Fu Ho, the official thus reïnstated in office, was cashiered a year or two ago in consequence of a disagreement, resulting in an exchange of blows, between himself and his superior officer, Yung Ts'üan, then Military Governor of Ili.)

(2) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, and Li Hoh-nien, acting-Governor of Honan, jointly memorialize reporting the result of an enquiry into the charges brought by the Censor Li Kwei-lin some months ago against the Magistrate of the Ngan-yang district, in Honan, with reference to exactions alleged to be levied without stint upon the salt contractors for the Ch'ang-lu delivery area. The report of the official appointed to enquire into this affair exculpates the Magistrate, who is shewn to have merely called upon the salt contractors to advance a sum of money required for completing the repairs of a bridge, which the inhabitants of the district had not the means of providing immediately. The amount thus provided was Tls. 7,333, out of which a sum of Tls. 2,666 was given as a subscription toward the undertaking, and the balance has been repaid to the lenders, with the exception of a sum of Tls. 200 which it is found was surreptitiously deducted by one of the Magistrate's personal retainers. For his failure to discover this act of dishonesty, it is requested that the Magistrate be handed to the Board for adjudication of a penalty; and the delinquent himself is to be proceeded against with all the rigour of the law by the Prefect of K'ai-fêng Fu.

(3) The Governor of Shensi memorializes reporting the discovery of extensive frauds in connection with the issue of Government notes through the money-shops in that province, under official supervision. After the province became in 1862 the scene of warfare, he states, the Governor then in office, Ying K'i, under the pressure of financial exigencies, submitted proposals for the establishment of Government *cash*-shops, whence notes were to be issued which were to be used in part payment of the Manchu soldiery and the Chinese garrison troops at Si-ngan Fu. This expedient, originally introduced with a view to husbanding the resources of the Exchequer and to provide a medium of circulation, has been in force for 12 or 15 years, and in consequence of the numerous abuses that have arisen in connection with it, the memorialist reported some time ago his intention to cease, from the beginning of 1876, the farther printing of Government notes, and to issue a sum of Tls. 6,000 or 7,000 per mensem to the *cash*-shops for the redemption of the old notes outstanding. In the course of last summer he learnt that malversations had been committed by the official appointed to superintend the *cash*-shops, in the way of misappropriation of the notes, indebtedness in running accounts with private money-shops, and overpayments of wages to the clerks employed in the *cash*-shops, etc. An expectant Magistrate was appointed hereupon to enquire into the matter, when it was discovered that during the 10 or 15 years of his service in the above-named capacity, the incriminated official, Fang Yen-hi by name, was chargeable with a deficit of 23,600 and odd strings of *cash* in the accounts under his charge, beside 3,426 strings overpaid under the head of wages, &c. Fang Yen-hi has meanwhile died; but it is requested that orders may be given, in the first place, for his deprivation of the rank he held as District Magistrate, and secondly for the sequestration and escheatment of his property on behalf of the exchequer.—Sanctioned by rescript.

(4) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports, with reference to the decree received by him on the 10th October last, sanctioning his proposals for a modified course of action with reference to the provision of grain on behalf of the provinces of Shansi and Honan, that he had caused the Taotai Chu K'i-ngang to be furnished with the funds required for the purchase of piculs 30,000 of rice at Shanghai, and for the freight of the same to Tientsin before the close of navigation, as an advance on account of the province of Kiangsi, whence this quantity of grain was ordered to be diverted to purposes of relief.

(5) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, etc., referring to his memorial (see *Gazette* of December 20th, 1877) impeaching Liu Hien, Taotai of the Hwai-Yang Intendancy, for the vice of opium-smoking, reports that he has provisionally appointed a Taotai named P'ang Tsi-yün 龐際雲 to act in his stead, pending a further appointment.

Jan. 28th-29th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Chang Tao-yüan, who has solicited the issue of stringent commands against the practice of numerous abuses in connection with the purchase of official titles in the provinces, lately sanctioned [in aid of the famine expenses.] The raising of contributions in the provinces is an expedient undertaken simply with the view of meeting the exigency of the moment; and it is urgently needful, if the statements advanced by the memorialist are true, to prohibit the malpractices that have arisen in consequence. The Censor alleges that the various provincial governments have placed the blank certificates issued to them in the hands of official deputies, who have proceeded to impose them compulsorily upon the different village communities, with the result that some scores of householders take out a single certificate of rank, and some hundreds join together to purchase a single title to office. The certificate is then made out in the name of the most influential person among them, with the result that dishonest acts are perpetrated by evil-minded persons of the licentiate or graduate class, who get the management of the transaction into their hands. This system, which is termed joint-purchase—*ling küan* 零捐—causes detriment in a high degree to the people's interest. Injunctions are consequently laid upon the provincial Governments concerned to allow no certificates to be issued to purchasers under the circumstances herein referred to, and to be given to none but individuals themselves possessed of means who come forward in response to the call for contributions. Any notables or elders who may be found setting up a monopoly of the management of the transaction, and acting dishonestly in collusion with officials or their underlings, are to be impeached and punished with all rigour.

(2) A decree, referring for consideration on the part of the Board of Punishments, a memorial from the Censor Chang Tao-yüan urging that pending judicial cases in which witnesses are detained in custody may be taken in hand and disposed of; as also that regulations on the subject be drawn up for issue to the various provincial governments.

Jan. 30th-31st.—(Court Circular). The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reports a fall of snow at Peking to the depth of two inches.—Prince Peh-yen-na-mo-hu had audience, on his return to Peking.

(1) A decree. In submitting certain memorials received this day from Shao-k'i (Brigade-General of the T'ai-ning command), and ex-officio Comptroller of the Household, he states, in his despatch forwarding them to the Privy Cabinet Office, that there were among them three addresses of compliment (*i.e.*, to the two Empresses Regent and the Emperor, on occasion of the New Year), and one memorial relating to affairs of business. The envelope is found, notwithstanding, to contain two addresses of compliment, one address of congratulation, and no document relating to public affairs. Great negligence is thus shewn to have occurred. Let the name of Shao-k'i be handed to the Board of Civil Office for the adjudication of a penalty; and let him ascertain and report to Us the explanation of the mistake committed. (N.B.—Shao-k'i is the high officer whose "promotion downwards" from a Vice-Presidentship of the Board of Punishments to his present position as a Brigade-General commanding the guards of the Western Mausolea, was announced in the *Gazette* of Dec. 8th, 1877).

(2) Li Hung-chang, in a postscript memorial, reports that he received some little time ago a letter from Ngên Sih, the Lieutenant-Governor of Kiangsu, stating that whilst on his way to Peking for audience he had taken cold on his journey, and was lying ill at the district city of Ngan-suh, in Chihli, beyond which point he had been unable to move. He solicited that a congé might be applied for on his behalf. Before the memorialist had taken action in the matter, he received a report from the Lieutenant-Governor's family to the effect that he had died at Ngan-suh from the effects of illness, on the 4th January last. This it is the memorialist's duty to report, and in doing this he adds a brief sketch of the deceased's official career, with an expression of regret at his decease. (N.B.—The above memorial was probably received at Peking on the 7th January, as the *Gazette* of the 8th contained the decree based upon it, in which Leh Fang-k'i was appointed to the vacancy occurring in the Lieutenant-Governorship of Kiangsu. The present is therefore a means of judging of the length of time which elapses between the receipt of a memorial at Peking and its publication in the *Gazette*).

Feb. 1st-4th (including the Chinese New Year's day, on Feb. 2nd.)—The *Court Circular* contains the following notices:—

Feb. 1st.—The Princes of Tun and others returned thanks for gifts of birds'-nest and embroidered purses.—Kwei Ts'ing returned thanks for the gift of a purse.—To-morrow, at 4 a.m., his Majesty will proceed by way

of the K'ien-ts'ing Gate and the King-yün Gate to the Ancestral Temple, after worshipping at which, the same route will be taken in returning to the Palace. At ½ to 5 his Majesty will proceed to offer incense at the Hall of Confucius and the shrine of the God of Healing, after which his Majesty will take his seat on the Throne in the K'ien-ts'ing Hall, where tea will be served. After partaking of this refection, and bestowing refreshment [on the Ministers in attendance], his Majesty will return to the Palace. At 7 a.m., his Majesty will proceed (by certain gateways named) to the Ts'ze Ning Kung, and after offering here his obeisance [to the Empresses Regent] will return by the same route to the Imperial apartments. At half-past 8 his Majesty will take his seat in the Chung Ho Throne Hall to receive the obeisances [of the Ministers of the Presence and others in immediate personal attendance], and in the Grand Throne Hall—the T'ai Ho Tien—to receive the homage of his Court, returning after this to the Imperial apartments. At 9 a.m., his Majesty will proceed to the Tai Kao Tien to offer incense, and thence, entering the Palace Park, to the Show Hwang Tien to make obeisance [before the portraits of his ancestors there preserved], returning thence by the North Gateway to the Imperial apartments.

Feb. 2nd.—The Prince of Tun, as President of the Astronomical Office, reported that the wind set this day (Chinese New Year) from the *kên*—North-east—quarter, presaging longevity and plenteous harvests. (N.B.—This is a formality invariably observed at the Chinese New Year. The presage conveyed in terms identical with the above on the 26th January, 1877, has been strangely belied by the result; but this in no wise affects the continuance of a time-honoured custom.)

A Decree. The *beileh* Tsai Ying-ying 載瀅 is granted permission of the Imperial grace to have the privilege of *entrée* at Court.

Feb. 3rd-4th.—(1) Tu Jui-lien, acting Governor of Yünnan, memorializes reporting his having taken over the seal of office on the 10th November last, on the departure of P'an Ting-sin, summoned to Peking to await other employment by decree of the 6th October. A copy of this decree, enclosed in a Council despatch, was received at Yünnan Fu on the 30th of the same month.

(2) P'an Ting-sin, late Governor of Yünnan, memorializes reporting his having handed over the seal of office, and states that he proposed leaving Yünnan Fu on the 13th November, travelling by way of Hupeh to his native province, Nganhwei, in which it was his intention to visit his family burial-place and perform the obligations of filial duty. So soon as this has been accomplished, he will proceed on his way to Peking, there to prostrate himself in the dust before the Palace portals and to await the bestowal of further employment. His age being barely 50, he cannot for a moment think of seeking only his personal ease.—Rescript: It is noted.

Feb. 7th-8th.—Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Hu Kwang, memorializes reporting the proceedings taken in connection with an unauthorized act on the part of certain notables and others of Fan K'ow 樊口, in the Wu-ch'ang district, above Hankow, in erecting a dam to cut off communication between the waters of the Yangtsze and the Liang-tsze 梁子, and other lakes and lagoons. With reference to this matter, application had been made by the district notables at intervals during the last fifteen years for permission to effect this work, on the ground that without it the land under cultivation in that neighbourhood is liable to periodical inundation; but their requests had been negatived in view of the fact that to shut out the Yangtsze waters in flood time from access to the large inland basins which now serve as temporary receivers would be to entail peril upon a very large region of the province for the advantage of a single district. The Prefect of Wu-ch'ang Fu, when deputed to investigate the matter, had reported against it on this ground, and also in consideration of the impediment it would throw in the way of water communication with several inland districts, thus interfering with both the public food supply and with the collection of the *lekin* taxes. The objections urged against the scheme were reiterated last year, when the late Governor received letters from notables of the district residing at Peking, once more urging the request. Notwithstanding this, however, a literary licentiate of the Wu-ch'ang district, with some other petty titular officials of the neighbouring districts, were lately reported to have set law and authority at defiance, and to have forcibly collected funds and set to work to build a dam at Fan K'ow. They closed up the entrance to the river, and established a tax-office of their own, at which they levied a *likin* duty upon passing vessels. As this self-appointed body had refused obedience to the demand addressed to them for the

immediate removal of the dam, the Governor-General at length ordered General Sung Têh-hung, in command of the foreign drilled corps at Han-yang, to proceed with a detachment of his men and some river gunboats, accompanied by the Prefect of Wu-ch'ang, to the spot. On arrival at Fan K'ow, this force set to work to pull down the dam, which was effected on the 12th or 13th December. The offending principals in the affair had taken to flight; but gunboats were left on the spot to assist the local authorities in effecting their arrest.

Feb. 9th-10th.—(1) A decree awarding a farther supply of 2,000 piculs of rice to the relief-agency at T'ungchow, in addition to the like amount heretofore bestowed in the same quarter, on the application of the authorities concerned, who have represented that the original amount is inadequate to the needs of the establishment.

(2) Mei Ki-chao, Governor of Chêh-kiang, reports upon the prices of raw silk required for the supply of the Imperial manufactories at Hangchow. The impossibility of obtaining materials at the tariff of purchasing prices fixed by the Board of Revenue has already more than once been represented, and sanction was obtained to an extension of the system of buying at current market rates for another year. The Magistrate of the Têh-ts'ing district reports that the price per tael-weight of first-quality white silk used for warp-throwing 雪白經絲 is two *mace* nine *candareens* five *cash* of sycee silver; Treasury weight, and of white cross-thread silk 亮白緯絲, two *candareens* less per tael weight. Silk has been so scarce this year that no reduction below these rates can be obtained.

Feb. 11th-12th—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Shao-ki, the official lately found fault with for an irregularity in the presentation of addresses of congratulation, &c., at the New Year (see *Gazette* of January 30th.) He has now stated in explanation that he forwarded two covers on the same day, and that it was by direction of the Privy Cabinet Office itself that the contents were presented to the Throne on successive days instead of at the same time. He begs to submit himself to the penalty incurred by the offence, and solicits that enquiry into the circumstances be ordered. The decree ordains that, as Shao-ki's name has already been handed to the Board for the adjudication of a penalty, his present request to that end need not be taken into consideration; and also that enquiry be made as to the action of the Privy Cabinet Office.

(2) A decree in reply to a memorial from Liu Kw'ên-yih, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, who has solicited on behalf of a military officer in Kwangsi, promoted to the rank of captain, that he may vacate his substantive appointment as lieutenant in the Yeo-kiang command, and further that he may change his present name, which is P'an Yih-hün 潘奕勳, by substituting the character Ch'êng 承 for Yih. The request is granted, but a misconception on the Governor-General's part, to the effect that the character Yih, as forming one of the series appropriated for use as the cognomina of Imperial princes, ought not to be commonly used, is corrected by reference to a decree issued in 1846. The commands therein lain down, declaring that the *pei fên tsze* 輩分字, or cognominal characters prescribed for use in serial order by successive generations of the Imperial lineage, need not be held subject to taboo, are now repeated for general information.

(3) Li Hoh-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, memorializes reporting having taken the seal of office as acting Governor of Honan, on the 30th December.

Feb. 13th-14th.—(1) A decree giving utterance to the Imperial sorrow on receipt of intelligence of the decease of Ying Han, Military Lieutenant-Governor of Urumtsi. The deceased is eulogized as an officer of ability and wisdom, and distinguished by conspicuous services. Having risen from the rank of District Magistrate and performed signal military exploits in the campaign against the Nien-fei, he was advanced by his late Majesty to the office of Governor of Nganwhei, in which capacity he rendered most efficient support to the State in the task of extirpating the last vestiges of the rebellion and in restoring order to the province. Having at a subsequent period been dismissed from the public service owing to a fault committed as Governor-General of the Two Kwang, he was afterwards appointed, in consideration of his earlier deserts, to the post of Military Lieutenant-Governor of Urumtsi, in which capacity he evinced great judgment in the measures instituted by him. On receipt of intelligence of his decease, at a moment when the hope was entertained of his long continuing to enjoy the Imperial favour, profound regret is experienced. He is posthumously invested with the title of Grand Guardian of the Heir Apparent,

and other honours are decreed on his behalf. A donation of Taels 2,000 from the Privy Purse, and a present of six taels' weight of ginseng, are bestowed upon his mother, who is now upwards of seventy years of age. (N.B.—Ying-han received the substantive appointment of Military Lieutenant-Governor of Urumtsi only on the 5th November last. He was about fifty years of age.)

(2) A Decree. Let Yü She 豫師 (at present Imperial Controller-General at Kokonor) become acting Military Lieutenant-Governor of Urumtsi, and let him proceed thither without delay. Until he arrives at his post, let Kin Yün-ch'ang (the commandant of the Chinese division) take temporary charge of the office.

(3) The Censor Têng K'ing-lin memorializes representing that the distribution of Government salt in the province of Shansi is unduly checked, and that smuggling is rife, and he solicits that the ancient rule of management by official agency be restored in respect of this article. Owing to the drought with which the province of Shansi has been afflicted, the levy of the land tax has been wholly remitted by the Imperial grace, and the sole remaining resource of the provincial exchequer to any considerable extent is the revenue derived from the salt gabelle. The system pursued in the various districts of the province is not, however, uniformly the same. In some, consumption is active,—in others it labours under disadvantages, such as the prevalence of smuggling, which, in certain parts, obstructs the demand for the duty-paid article; and in other cases the fact that salt upon which no duty has been paid is carried as an accompaniment to the consignments conveyed under licenses, in quantities so excessive as to interfere with the demand for duty-paid salt. The evils of the present system are in a great measure due to the unprincipled conduct of the licensed salt traders. The rule is that to each *yin* of 30,000 catties a proportion of surplus (non-dutiable) salt to the amount of 3,000 catties is allowed to be carried, under the head of waste-allowance; but by trickery on the part of the salt traders they manage to increase this amount to 7,000 or 8,000 catties, thus reducing to a very detrimental extent the area of demand for the duty-paid article. Whilst the interests of the Government are made to suffer in this wise, the people, on the other hand, are exposed to injury by fraudulent practices of another description. The selling-price per catty is 35 coppor *cash*, of the regular currency; but the scales used in the salt trade make 14 *taels* (instead of sixteen) go to the *catty*, or even, of late, no more than 12 *taels*, whilst, by the admixture of earth and the damping to which the salt is subjected, the real quantity obtained is not more than 6 or 7 *taels* per *catty*. In order to guard against these multiplied abuses, the Censor would propose that the sale of salt be replaced under the management of official agencies.—Referred for deliberation and report by rescript in *Gazette* of 22nd January.

Feb. 14th-15th.—(1) A decree cashiering several district Magistrates and assistant Magistrates in Nganhwei on impeachment by the Governor, Yü Luh.

(2) A decree to the same effect with reference to district officials in the province of Honan, on impeachment by the acting Governor, Li Hoh-nien.

(3) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes reporting the destruction by fire on the 6th January of a relief shed at Tientsin, with the consequent destruction of a great number of the inmates. Since 1871, he observes, the suffering caused alternately by floods and drought in the province of Chihli, year after year, has caused great numbers of the afflicted population to flock to Tientsin, as a central point, in search of the means of subsistence, and during the present season the number of refugees thus collected at the port is not far from 60,000 souls. Twelve relief-centres have been established on their behalf by the local authorities, and as the number of temples available as lodging places is insufficient, sheds have been built upon pieces of waste ground, in which straw has been littered down for the accommodation of the refugees. The local authorities, viz., the Salt Comptroller and the Customs' and Territorial Taotais, have now made report that, owing to want of precaution, a fire broke out at 9 a.m. on the 6th January, in the N.W. angle of the women's shed outside the East gate; and although the Salt Comptroller and the Customs' Taotai hurried at once to the spot, accompanied by the local civil and military functionaries and the fire brigade, the inflammable materials of the shed burnt with such rapidity, the weather being extremely dry and the wind high at the time, that the building was in a blaze in a moment. A great number of the inmates, both children and grown-up persons, were rescued, but not a few perished, notwithstanding, in consequence of the conflagration. An accurate return of the numbers could not, in the hurry of the moment, be sent in. On

receipt of this report the memorialist, who was shocked beyond expression by the receipt of intelligence of the disaster, proceeds to observe that in the severely cold weather now prevailing it is quite probable that a fire may have been lighted for the sake of warmth by the poor people in the shed, and have escaped observation on the part of the persons in charge, but that the negligence of the superintendents, notwithstanding his own repeated warnings, is inexcusable; and he solicits the dismissal in perpetuity from the public service of the two civilian functionaries directly responsible. The higher authorities, and himself also, are answerable, likewise, for the shortcomings of their subordinates, and he requests that the names of all may be submitted to the Board for the adjudication of a penalty.—For rescript, assenting to these propositions, see *Gazette* of Jan. 20th. (It is understood that upwards of 2,000 women and children perished on the occasion in question.)

(4) Li Hung-chang, in a postscript memorial, draws attention to the heavy consumption of foodstuffs which is entailed by the distillation of spirits, carried on, as this industry is, to a large extent in the province of Chihli. Taking the entire province together, he points out, there are about 1,000 distillers, consuming a daily total of upwards of 20,000 piculs of *kaoliang* millet, or say 60 to 70,000 piculs per mensem. Taking one person's daily consumption as food at 1 *shêng* (about one pint) per head, it follows that in the process of distillation between two and three million of individuals' daily food is taken away. The grain locally produced or imported from a distance is bought up by the distilleries, an artificial scarcity and dearth being thus occasioned, whilst the advantage accruing to the State, in the levy of little more than some Tls. 30,000 by way of excise, is after all not great. Precedent is in favour of the stoppage of distillation as a famine-relief measure, and a decree has lately been issued, indeed, prohibiting the continuance of the industry in Shansi. The memorialist recommends that, with the exception of Jeh-ho and Ch'êng-têh Hien, where the harvest has been abundant, distilling be suspended throughout the whole of Chihli from the beginning of the New-Year, until the time when the return of an abundant harvest shall permit its resumption. (Referred for deliberation by rescript dated 22nd January.)

(5) The Censor Hu Ping-che presents a memorial to the same effect with the foregoing.

Feb. 16th-17th.—(1) A decree sanctioning the commencement of repairs at the Mu Tung Ling (Mausoleum of the Empress of Tao Kwang), on application by the Commissioners in charge.

(2) A decree, in answer to a memorial from the high authorities of the province of Kwangtung, commanding that a tablet be prepared and forwarded to the memorialists, in recognition of the deserts of the deity worshipped in T'ien Kung temple at Fo Kang in that province, his interposition in response to prayers in time of flood having been most efficacious.

(3) The Censor Chang Tao-yüan memorializes calling attention to the suffering entailed upon prisoners who are kept in durance, according to law, pending the apprehension of principals in the cases in which they are involved, the law requiring that accessories to a crime be kept imprisoned until the principal can be arraigned at the same time with them and sentences be pronounced according to the share respectively assigned to each criminal. The memorialist points out the likelihood of all prisoners declaring themselves to be accessories rather than principals in an offence committed, and of their falsely accusing other persons as the really guilty parties; whilst the consequences of the system now pursued are seen in the protracted imprisonment of suspected individuals awaiting trial, with all its attendant evils. The prisons necessarily become overcrowded, and justice is liable to be either perverted or cheated of its due. To this overcrowding of the prisons may, he thinks, be attributed the frequency with which escapes have been effected of late years. He would suggest a modification of the law, to be effected by the issue of commands directing the Board of Punishments to draw up regulations, to be circulated to all the provincial governments, fixing a limit of say one or two years as the maximum of preliminary imprisonment in the case of accessories. If, at the expiry of the time prescribed, the declared principals in a case of crime should not have been apprehended, the prisoners in the case in question should be arraigned and sentenced according to the provisions applicable to the offence. At any future time, in the event of the parties remaining at large being at length apprehended, the sentences pronounced upon them to be aggravated by one degree, whether as principals or as accessories. — Rescript referring the proposals for consideration by the Board of Punishments, already published.

(4) In a postcript memorial, the same Censor draws attention to the abuses which are being perpetrated in connection with the sale of certificates of rank and office at present being conducted in aid of the funds required for famine relief. The provincial authorities, he represents, are in the habit of placing the blank certificates which are issued to them, in the hands of their subordinates for sale, on the ground that it would be no easy matter otherwise to find contributors; and the subordinate officials, alleging similar excuses, impose the certificates compulsorily upon the village communities. Where no individual sufficiently wealthy to purchase on his own account is forthcoming, an entire village is perhaps laid under contributions, and the most influential man of the locality is the person whose name figures in the document. Embezzlement and falsification of the returns are also not unknown among the malpractices prevailing. The Censor urges that stringent measures be taken to put a stop to these irregularities. —For rescript see *Gazette* of January 28th.

(5) The Censor She T'ai memorializes drawing attention to a source of unproductive expenditure in connection with the Imperial manufactories, which he requests may be obviated by reverting to the ancient system. Of late years, he observes, manifestations have repeatedly been made of the Imperial bounty in the bestowal of patents of rank upon the progenitors of functionaries of the public service, a form of distinction which is not lightly to be obtained. On making application, however, for the scrolls upon which the patents are inscribed, the material of which these are composed is in general found to be of the most inferior description, coarse and loosely woven, and made up with a minimum of silk, the greater portion being merely "solidified dye" 漿粉顏料. The difference in quality, as compared with the scrolls heretofore issued, is most notable. On making enquiry, it has been found that, under the system heretofore prevailing, the silks used for the manufacture of patent scrolls and for consumption as sacrificial offerings were fabricated at Nanking, under the direction of an officer appointed by the Board of Works. A special department, called the *Shên Pih T'ang* or Sacrificial-Silk factory, was maintained, the weavers in which were employed from father to son, in consequence of which dishonest workmanship and peculation of material were undreamt of. After the rebellion broke out, however, the silk manufactory was moved in the first instance to Soochow and Ch'angchow, and at a later period, owing to the dispersion of the artizans employed in this industry, the work was temporarily placed in the hands of the Hangchow establishment. At this place, the manufacture appears to be effected by contract, with unsatisfactory results, whilst at the same time, at Nanking, the old Sacrificial Silk Factory has been restored, so far as the buildings and working staff are concerned, but with nothing to do. The Censor requests that, in order to check malpractices and useless expenditure of public money, and to improve the quality of the materials furnished, the manufacture be placed once more under the Nanking establishment.—Referred by rescript, already published, for consideration.

(6) Wang Kia-pih, Civil Governor and ex-officio Literary Examiner of the province of Fêng-t'ien, memorializes stating that in the course of perusal of the examination essays handed in by candidates in that province, he has repeatedly found characters having the same "primitive" with that (viz., 淳 or 湉) forming part of the personal name of his late Majesty (the Emperor Muh Tsung or T'ung-che), altered by the writers in conformity with the rule applying to the tabooed character itself. Thus for *tun* 敦 the form 敱 is written, and so forth. Such an extension of the principle of respect for the Imperial name is, however, uncalled for by any regulation, and the memorialist remembers having seen a similar practice found fault with by decree during the late reign. He solicits that general instructions may be issued, laying down a rule on this subject.—For rescript see *Gazette* of Jan. 18th.

Feb. 19th—20th.—(1) A decree referring to the protracted absence of moisture in and around Peking, and to the urgent need of a fertilizing downpour at present in the interest of agriculture. It is ordained that a fresh series of intercessory services shall be instituted at the Tai Kao Tien, beginning on the 22nd inst., and that offerings of incense be made on that day at the various State Temples in the usual manner.

(2) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from the Supervising Censor Li Hung-mo, who has urged that injunctions to observe economy in expenditure be laid upon the various provincial governments, and the different amounts due by way of subsidy from one province to

another be revised, in order to effect reductions consistently with the amount and urgency of the existing demands. The Board of Revenue is commanded to consider and report hereupon.

(3) A decree expressing the Imperial regret on receipt of intelligence of the death of Ch'êng Ming, Brigade-General of one of the Mongolian Banners at Peking, and heretofore distinguished by long and meritorious service with the army in the operations against the insurgents in Kiangsu, &c.

(4) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes with reference to the recapture of the four prisoners whose escape from the jail of the Hing-t'ang district was reported last year (see *Gazette* of May 10th, 1877), and the trial of the individuals responsible in the case. One of the prisoners, named Wang Süeh-tsai, was apprehended a few days after the escape, and within the next month or two, Chang Po-tsze and Tan Sze were separately captured. Wang and Chang died in confinement from the effects of illness after their examination had been concluded; and as Tan Sze was guilty of causing the death of two of his fellow prisoners, beside wounding the turnkeys in effecting his escape, he was sentenced to summary execution. The remaining prisoner, Kwoh Heh-tsze, was met by the police who were searching for him in August last, and was captured after a desperate resistance, in the course of which he inflicted a wound upon himself with a sword, from the effect of which he shortly afterwards died. The jailers answerable on the occasion have been brought to trial and sentenced to penalties of bambooing, dismissal, and two years' banishment, according to law. The jailwarden is exempted from further personal punishment, having already been dismissed from his rank; and the district Magistrate, having meanwhile been dismissed in connection with other shortcomings, is also condoned his share of the punishment incurred in this case.

(5) The Governor of Shensi, in a postscript memorial, represents that owing to the postponements of revenue collection accorded in that province, the receipts into the provincial exchequer shew a falling-off of some 600,000 to 700,000 taels, whilst the *likin* revenue, also, is not within fifty per cent. of last year's amount. Every penny available is applied to the requirements of famine relief, and all the regular payments on other accounts are stopped. The pay of the troops of the various field-forces is issued at a reduction of three-tenths; whilst, as regards the regular soldiery, Manchu and Chinese, who receive so much per head, and in whose case it is absolutely impossible to suspend payments, exchequer notes have been printed and issued, as an unavoidable measure, by the provincial treasury. The subsidy due in monthly payments to the military chest of Ili has been customarily sent forward in advance, but this year two months' subsidy is owing, and there are no means forthcoming to make the remittance. Not a *cash* has been sent to General Sü Chan-piao, on account of his seven battalions in the field beyond the frontier. All that has gone in that direction has been advanced by the Governor-General Tso. In the region north of the Yellow River the autumn wheat crop has not been sown, and no revenue collection can be made in the coming half-year. The exchequer will have no receipts whatever, and unless the arrears due by other provinces be sent forward unintermittingly it is impossible to say what is to be done. As Tls. 200,000 are at present owing from Szech'wan, the memorialist has written to request the Governor-General of that province to let him have one-half of this amount to begin with, and a reply has been received to the effect that he will do all in his power, and that he has ordered offices for the collection of contributions to be opened by his subordinates. The sum of Tls. 20,000 raised in this manner has now been received, and the memorialist feels confident that the Governor-General Ting will do all that in him lies to afford assistance. He concludes by soliciting Imperial sanction to the establishment of offices for the raising of contributions (*i. e.*, the sale of titles) in Szech'wan, Hupeh and Honan, Chehkiang and Kwangtung, in all of which provinces natives of Shensi are settled in large numbers. Sanctioned by receipt.

Feb. 21st.—(1) A decree, based upon a memorial from Wu Yüan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, who has denounced the department Magistrate Kin Kwei-yung for malversation of public funds. The delinquent is accused of having misappropriated the sum of Tls. 1,600 and odd, from the receipts on account of sales of titles on behalf of the provinces of Kansuh, Kweichow, and Nganhwei, which amount he only made good in instalments on pressure being applied to him by the memorialist. Such conduct is proof positive of dishonesty; and the incriminated official is dismissed from his rank with sentence of perpetual exclusion from reëmployment.

(2) Wang Kia-pih, Civil Vice-Governor and ex-officio Literary Chancellor of the province of Fêng-t'ien, memorializes reporting his having terminated his tour of

examination in the Manchurian provinces. On his return to Moukden at the end of October last, after concluding the local examinations in the province of Kirin, he proceeded, as the regulations require, in conjunction with the officers of the Imperial Household, to supervise the airing of the library preserved in the Wên So Koh, consisting in the chronicles of the successive reigns of the present dynasty, the abstracts of Imperial decrees, the collections of Imperial poems, and the works forming the *Sze K'u Ts'uan Shu* (library of works formed by order of the Emperor K'ien Lung, one complete set of which is preserved at Moukden.) After this, he proceeded to hold the examinations in the prefecture of Kin Chow.

Feb. 22nd.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the supervising Censor Wên Ming, who has submitted observations upon the report presented by the Governor of Shensi respecting defalcations on the part of a district Magistrate now deceased, named Fang Yen-hi (see *Gazette* of 26th Jan.) The Censor asks how it happens that, as the Governor declares the defalcations to have continued during a long period of years, it should only after such delay as this have come to his knowledge? Moreover, the Governor's statement that he had appointed an official to investigate the matter is barely made before it is followed by the observation that the delinquent had departed this life. It is quite plain that the Governor had stood in dread of pressure being put upon him by the individual in question, and for this reason had waited until after death had removed the delinquent from the scene to put forward an empty pretext, in order to rid himself of the responsibility of so serious an amount as that in question. The Censor therefore asks that the Governor be called upon for an explanation. T'an Chung-lin, the Governor of the province referred to, is commanded accordingly to report in explanation of the points adverted to.

(2) A decree referring for report on the part of the Board of Civil Office a memorial in which the Censor Wên Ming proposes that a list be published, monthly, of the officials of all ranks from that of Taotai and Prefect downward, whose turn it is, according to the roster, to receive appointments.

(3) A decree in reply to a memorial in which K'ing Che, the Prince of Chêng, has applied for leave to resign his State functions on the score of continued ill-health. A congé of two months is granted to the Prince, in lieu of acceptance of his resignation.

(4) Shao Hêng-yü, newly appointed Governor of Hupeh, reports his arrival at Wu-ch'ang, the provincial capital, on the 24th December last, after accomplishing the mission of the enquiry in Honan with which he had been charged conjointly with Ts'ung K'i. He received and took over from the Governor-General, on the day after his arrival, the seal of his office; and, fully conscious of the importance of the duties incumbent upon him, he will endeavour to carry into effect the instructions he has received from their Majesties, desiring him to institute scrutiny and take counsel with the Governor-General Li Han-chang respecting the conduct of the officials acting under his orders, and the measures which may be necessary for the improvement of the administration of affairs.

Feb. 23rd.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc., who has dwelt upon the eminent public services rendered by Ying Han, lately deceased, whilst holding the office of Military Lieutenant-Governor of Urumts'i, and requesting that posthumous honours be bestowed upon his memory. The request is acceded to, and commands are given for the grant of a title of canonization to the deceased, and for the erection of a memorial temple in his honour at the provincial capital of Nganhwei, where he long held office as Governor.

(2) A decree referring to a memorial heretofore received from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szech'wan, who had asked that an official heretofore cashiered and dismissed from the rank of Taotai might be reinstated in possession of the button of his rank and attached to the memorialist's staff for service. This application having been remitted to the Board of Civil Office for consideration, it is now reported by the Board that the ex-official in question, Li Yao-nan by name, was dismissed under sentence of perpetual exclusion from reëmployment, on impeachment by Tso Tsung-t'ang, who had accused him of maladministration in the forwarding of army supplies, of profuse habits, frivolous conduct, and self-willed misbehaviour. A decree issued in 1862 expressly forbids the extension of patronage to officials who have been dismissed for ever from the public service; and the application submitted in the present instance by Ting Pao-chêng is rejected. For suppressing in his memorial all mention of the fact that such a proviso had been appended to the sentence imposed upon the individual in question, the name of Ting Pao-chêng is

handed to the Board for the adjudication of a penalty.

(3) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, Wên Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transport system, and Wu Yüan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, memorialize representing that whereas Liu Hien, Intendant of the Hwai-Yang circuit, has been dismissed from the public service in consequence of his impeachment for contamination with the vice [of opium-smoking], it is necessary to appoint another officer to fill his place. The decree cashiering him having borne date the 1st December, 1877, and five days being the period allowed within which the despatch conveying this announcement should be sent off, the 25 days to be further allowed for delivery in the case of the province of Kiangsu bring up the time to the 31st December, on which date, accordingly, the late incumbent was bound to vacate his office. An officer named P'ang Tsi-yün, a native of Chihli, aged 54, an expectant Taotai and brevet Judicial Commissioner by rank, has been named to act in the post until further orders, and his confirmation therein, as an officer eminently qualified to discharge its duties, is requested.—Referred for consideration by the Board of Civil Office.

(4) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, referring to his previous applications for leave to resign his office and the periods of congé successively granted him, presents a farther lamentable picture of his state of health, and protests against the insinuations of those who suggest that he is solicitous only of his own personal comfort. He earnestly entreats, on the contrary, permission to retire from the occupancy of a post which his enfeebled condition no longer allows him to occupy without injury to the public cause.—Rescript, in reply, granting two additional months' congé, but withholding the permission asked for.

Feb. 24th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial presented by the Board of Revenue, in reporting upon the application submitted by Li Hoh-nien, acting Governor of Honan, for the diversion of the entire balance of the grain supply due to Peking by the provinces of Kiangsi and Nganhwei, for the coming year, to supply the needs occasioned by the famine in Honan. The Board objects to the proposed arrangement, which would strip the Peking granaries of their supplies; and the proposal, therefore, that 90,000 piculs of grain be furnished to Honan from the source indicated is negatived. In lieu of this, the province of Chihli is to supply 30,000 piculs of rice, being a balance of the stock accumulated for issue at reduced rates, and this is to be sent forward at once by Li Hung-chang. The Governor of Kiangsu is further to consider and take action upon the question whether supplies can be advanced from the charitable granaries in that province. As regards the amount of $500,000 in foreign currency, being the sum raised by contribution on account of Formosa (? for defence purposes in 1874?), the Governor-General and Governor (of Fuhkien?) are to see whether the amount in question has been as yet expended and whether it is possible to apply it as a loan on behalf of Honan. Furthermore, it is to be noted that a memorial has this day been presented by Wêng T'ung-ho, (a junior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, and one of the two Imperial tutors), soliciting that the grain revenue from Kiangsi and Nganhwei be diverted to the supply of the province of Honan. It was open to the Vice-President in question, as a matter of course, if he differed in opinion from his colleagues in reporting upon any subject, to submit a separate report in his own name; but an absolute contradiction is involved in appending his name to the memorial of the Board of Revenue, in which the proposal is negatived, and then separately recommending it on his own part. In memorials henceforward submitted, let all officers of government refrain, as the system of public business requires, from expressing mutually contradictory opinions.

(2) The Governor of Kweichow memorializes reporting the result of a trial in which an expectant Department Magistrate named Chang Hing-wên had been accused of intermarrying with the wife of a certain man named Wang-Shêng. From the evidence taken it has appeared that Wang Shêng had been used to live with his wife at her mother's house at Kwei-yang Fu, until, in 1873, he went away as servant to an official, and owing to the distance to which he was taken from his home, sent no news of himself to his family. Hearing nothing of her husband, and being reduced to great straits on the death of her mother, the wife, Wang Ku-she, allowed herself to be persuaded by reports she heard of her husband having died, and entered into an engagement through a marriage-broker named T'ang Yüh-shêng to become the wife of Chang Hing-wên. No presents, marriage-certificate, or brokers' fees were given. In the

autumn of 1875, Wang Sêng returned to his home, and having traced his wife's whereabouts, claimed her from Chang Hing-wên. The latter, however, believing the claim advanced to be a fictitious one, refused to listen to it, and the husband hereupon lodged a complaint against him at the district magistracy. On a trial being held, Chang Hing-wên obstinately sought to deny the evidence adduced, and refused to obey the judgment of the court, upon which a decree stripping him of his rank and ordering him to be proceeded against criminally was applied for and obtained. The facts of the case having now been established on trial, it is ruled that although in taking Wang Ku-she to wife, the accused was not aware that the woman had already a husband in existence, yet, as no marriage presents were given, nor any application made for official authority to contract the union, the case cannot be regarded in the light of actual wedlock, and the offence committed must be treated as one of seduction. Under the statute relating to cases, therefore, in which officials shall be found guilty of debauching the wives of members of the population, Chang Hing-wên is sentenced to be stripped of his rank, and to receive one hundred blows, the penalty of blows being commuted according to law. The woman is sentenced to wear the cangue for one month, and to receive one hundred blows, the latter part of the sentence, only, to be inflicted. The woman is to be given back to her lawful husband, who may keep her as his wife or put her away, as he pleases. The marriage broker is sentenced to a penalty mitigated by one degree less than that inflicted upon Wang Ku-she, and is sentenced accordingly to 25 days' cangue and 90 blows, for effecting a marriage without the concomitants which give the union its legal validity. Referred for consideration and report by the Board of Punishments.

(3) The Governor of Kweichow further memorializes respecting a case in which an expectant Sub-Prefect has been accused by authority of having cruelly beaten a concubine of his, named Wan Siao Mei, and murdered her by burying her alive. Enquiry having been instituted, complaint to the foregoing effect has been received from the deceased woman's sister; and an inquest having been held, which has established the fact of death having been caused by violence, it is now requested that the accused, She Ts'ung-ping, be stripped of his rank and placed on trial.—Granted by rescript.

Feb. 25th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reports a fall of snow at Peking (on the night of the 23rd) to the depth of one inch and upwards.

(1) The special High Commissioner for famine relief in the province of Shansi, Yen King ming, and Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of the province, jointly memorialize submitting a scheme for the better organization of the system of raising contributions throughout the Empire in aid of the afflicted province. They begin by acknowledging in warm terms the activity displayed at Tientsin by the Customs' and territorial Taotais acting under the orders of the Governor-General Li Hung-chang, and at Shanghai by the ex Lieutenant-Governor of Shensi, Wang Ch'êng-ki and the expectant Taotais Hu Kwang-yung, Chu K'i-ngang Shêng-Süan-hwai, T'ang T'ing-ch'u, and Sü-jun (the last four constituting the managing board of the China Merchants' Company.) In ready response to their appeals, the mercantile community had subscribed within less than a month the sum of nearly Taels 100,000; and in addition to this, supplies of grain were sent forward by the same officials, acting in the most indefatigable and efficient manner under the instructions of Li Hung-chang. Imperial sanction has furthermore been obtained for the raising of funds by the sale of offices and titles in all the Southern provinces, and the Governor, Tsêng Kwoh-t'süan, has received letters, expressive of the utmost sympathy for the affliction which has befallen his province, from Shên Pao-chêng, Li Han-chang, Ch'ung How, Liu K'wên-yih, Ting Pao-chêng, Wu Yüan-ping, Mei K'i-chao, Liu Ping-chang, Wang Wên-shao, Yü Luh, Chang Chao-tung, and T'u Tsung-ying. Ting Jih-chang, the Governor of Fuhkien, moreover, whilst residing on leave of absence at his native place in Kwangtung, has taken the lead with the Intendant of the Hwei-ch'ao-kia Circuit, Chang Sien, acting under his direction, in raising subscriptions among the Cantonese traders. What the memorialists have now to suggest is that the voluntary efforts of individual officers need to be supplemented by direct Imperial authority, and they submit the names of various individuals, in the provinces referred to above, for whom they request commissions by Decree, appointing them special agents for the raising of funds by contribution on behalf of Shansi, all accounting to a central office at Tientsin.—Granted by rescript.

Feb. 26th.—No documents of importance.

Feb. 27th.—Wang Wên-shao, Governor of Hunan, memorializes reporting his departure for Peking to have audience, in obedience to the decree dated the 23rd November last, which he received, as communicated in a despatch from the Board of Civil Office, on the 15th December. He gives, in customary terms, an outline of his past official career, stating that he was appointed in 1864, when filling the office of a Secretary of the Board of Revenue at Peking, to the post of Taotai of Siang-yang in Hupeh, whence he rose through the higher ranks of Judicial and Financial Commissioner to his present Governorship. He handed over the seal of his office on the 17th December to his *locum tenens*, Ts'ung Fuh, and contemplated setting out on his journey northwards on the 23rd of January.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied, for the most part, with reports of changes contingent upon the Governor's departure, as recorded above.

Feb. 28th.—No documents of importance.

March 1st—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Kin Shun, Military Governor, etc., of Ili, transmitting an application for leave to retire on behalf of one of his subordinate commanders. The applicant, Fu-chu-li 福珠哩, whose substantive office is that of Manchu Brigade-General at Canton, had been employed on active service for upwards of twenty years in the operations carried on against the insurgents in the provinces of Shantung, Hupeh, Nganhwei, Shensi, and Kansuh, in the course of which he had many times been wounded. His wounds have of late broken out afresh, and he has little prospect of a speedy recovery. His prayer for permission to vacate his post is acceded to, and he is authorized to return to his Banner and devote himself to the care of his health; retirement on full pay being granted him as a special boon.

(2) Shao K'i, Brigade-General commanding at the Eastern Mausolea, memorializes in obedience to command, submitting his explanation respecting the transmission of documents to be laid before the Throne which were received in an irregular manner. He states that on his assumption of office he drew up a memorial reporting this fact, which, with three addresses of compliment to their Majesties, was enclosed in one sealed package, whilst in another like packet there were enclosed a memorial of congratulation to His Majesty on the New Year, and two addresses of compliment (for the Empresses Regent.) Accompanying these two packets were sent two despatches addressed to the Privy Cabinet Office, both dated the 28th January, and on the same day a petty officer named Wang Ch'êng-chang was despatched with this mail to Peking. On the 3rd February the memorialist received back his memorials (in the usual course), accompanied by the Decree taking him to task for the irregular manner in which they had been delivered. Overwhelmed with trepidation and shame, the memorialist made immediate enquiry of his messenger, who stated that on handing in his charge to the Privy Cabinet Office on the 29th January, he was directed to present the documents on successive days instead of simultaneously. This he did, but by an unfortunate interchange of the accompanying despatches, the contents of the packets were found not to correspond with the statement set forth in the covering letter. The memorialist acknowledges that the carelessness displayed by his messenger was beyond all excuse, and he has written to the Board of War for the man's deprivation of his rank, as a preliminary to the infliction of punishment; in addition to which he now submits himself to the penalty to which he is conscious of being exposed.—For rescript see *Gazette* of February 11th.

March 2nd.—(1) A decree once more referring to the protracted drought experienced in the neighbourhood of Peking, notwithstanding the supplications that have been made on repeated occasions. The season being now already so far advanced, the necessity for rain in the interest of the tillage of the soil has become more than ever urgent, and the Imperial anxieties increase in like measure. It behoves that reverent entreaties be once more offered up, to the end that a downpour of the moisture vouchsafed in manifestation of the harmonious accord of the powers of nature may be obtained. A further series of intercessory services is consequently ordered to be held on the 3rd inst., His Majesty offering incense in person at the Tai Kao Tien. A long list of the Imperial princes is named for a like duty at the various shrines elsewhere.

(2) A Decree. Let Shang Ch'ang-mow 尚昌懋 succeed to the post of Manchu Brigade-General at Canton.

(3) The Governor of Chehkiang memorializes referring to the receipt some time ago of a Council despatch enclosing copy of an Imperial decree, dated December 31st,

1877, to the effect that, as the freight-receipts of the China Merchants' Steamship Company are insufficient to meet the expenditure entailed, the Company cannot go on for any length of time without an increase in the quantity of Government rice freights, to serve by way of subsidy. On receipt of these commands, the memorialist instructed the provincial Grain Intendant to take action accordingly; and he has now to submit that in the month of September last he was waited upon by a deputation of the Ningpo junk-owners, who laid a statement before him to the following effect:—Upwards of 360 junks were formerly owned at Ningpo, but their numbers have gradually fallen off, since the competition of steamers and foreign sailing vessels in the carrying trade was introduced, until now there remain but 120 sail or thereabouts. The sole resource they have to rely upon is the freight to be earned by the carriage [of rice] on behalf of Government; and the applicants would entreat that at the next shipping season full cargoes might in the first place be allotted to the local junk trade. The memorialist has pointed out in reply the tenor of the commands he has had laid upon him by decree, enjoining that a large proportion of the rice freights be given to the steamers, in support of the general public interest, and that, as the China Merchants' Company has greatly enlarged its fleet, an increased quantity must naturally be placed in its hands. In consideration, however, of the appeal addressed to him by the deputation, he would consent that the same amount should be allotted to them for carriage as in the previous shipping season. The Grain Intendant, Hu Yüh-yün, has now reported that for the coming year the amount of rice for transmission to Peking which is leviable in the province of Chehkiang is 418,000 and odd piculs, and, after deduction made of the waste allowances, etc., the total quantity to be delivered at the granaries is 377,000 and odd piculs. It is proposed that 200,500 and odd piculs shall be allowed to the C. M. S. N. Company for carriage, or more than 50 per cent. of the entire amount. The memorialist, on consideration of this report, finds nothing to object to; and, in addition to giving to the C. M. S. N. Company, exclusively, the carriage of all freights on behalf of Government, he has now to submit the foregoing report of the quantity of rice which he has decided upon allotting to its steamers for the approaching season.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang and the Governor of Kiangsu memorialize reporting the amount of grain to be forwarded to Peking by the sea-route in the coming season, and the arrangements made for its shipment and delivery at Tientsin. The five Prefectures and Departments of Soochow, Sung-kiang, Ch'ang-chow, Chinkiang, and T'ai-ts'ang are required to yield, as usual, a collection of "tribute" rice of the "ordinary" and "superior" qualities, whilst the two districts of Tan-yang and Kin-t'an in Chên-kiang Fu are assessed with amounts payable in commutation of the rice-tax. The amount leviable in kind is 658,068 piculs, in addition to which 20,000 piculs have been purchased with the commutation money levied in the districts above named. Including the allowance of 71,856 piculs, which is added by way of supplement to the statutory amount, in order to provide for waste in transhipment at Tientsin and T'ung Chow, the allowances to the junkmen, etc., a total is shewn of 749,924 piculs. Although less by 14,400 piculs than last season, the amount now to be shipped exceeds by 19,600 piculs the quantity sent forward in 1875. Arrangements have been made for shipping the grain at Shanghai by junk and steamer, some 40 or 50 per cent. of the total amount being placed in the hands of the China Merchants' Steamship Company.

March 3rd.—(Court Circular.) The Prince of Li has been deputed to conduct the ceremonies to be observed upon the completion of the term of three years from the date of the death of the late Empress.

(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Hu Yên-kw'ei complaining of the delays that habitually occur in judicial investigations. The habit of allowing arrears to accumulate appears to be prevalent amongst the lower provincial authorities, causing much distress and inconvenience. Governors-General and Governors are hereby called upon to issue peremptory orders to their subordinates to conclude all trials with which they may be entrusted, by the time allotted. Monthly reports of cases are to be forwarded by Intendants of Circuit and Prefects, and Courts of Judicature are to conclude all trials within a given time.

(2) Ying Kwei, Grand Secretary, and Supervisor General of the Mongolian Superintendency, is granted two months' congé to recruit his health. He need not vacate his post.

(3) Ming-an, Vice-President of the Board of Punishments at Shêng King (Moukden), reports the capture at different periods, and summary execution, of two hundred and two mounted banditti. Their heads were exposed on the public highways as a

salutory warning, and the body of one of the number who died in prison was decapitated after death.

(4) Ming-sün, Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Nanking, reports having taken over the cash balance, books of patterns, etc., from his predecessor. He has found them all in order.

March 4th.—(1) Li Hung-chang reports the recapture of two criminals who had escaped from prison, and the trial and punishment of a gang of burglars of which they formed a part. The acts of burglary with which they were charged were committed in the year 1874, but as no plunder had been recovered, and the statements of the accused were very contradictory, they were remanded until further evidence could be obtained. On the night of the 7th of January, 1877, while the watchmen on duty were temporarily absent, the two prisoners wrenched off their manacles, and made a hole in the cage in which they were confined large enough to get out of. They then twisted off the lock of the prison door, and, climbing over the outer wall, made their escape in different directions. One of them was recaptured in a few days, but the other remained at large for three months before he could be taken. Sufficient evidence being eventually forthcoming, sentence has been awarded to each offender in proportion to his guilt, and the carelessness of the officers in charge of the criminals who escaped has been duly punished.

(2) Pao Ying, Military Assistant-Governor commanding at K'obdo, applies for sanction to the expenditure of Tls. 840 for repairs of standards and tents belonging to the force of Mongolian cavalry stationed at K'obdo. The force numbers eight hundred and twenty, rank and file, and according to the regulations a certain sum should be allotted to them annually, out of the funds for military purposes, for repairs to tents and flags. A portion of the force has recently joined, and these, as is the rule, must be provided with tents by the Banner from which they are drafted. The cost of repairs to tents of original members of the force is estimated at Tls. 600, and that of fifty large standards, with eighty-seven smaller ones, is computed at Tls. 200 odd.

March 5th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Chang P'ei-lun, sub-expositor of the Han-lin College, who makes certain propositions in accordance with the precedents established in times of calamity by former memorialists. The four propositions submitted by the expositor with regard to prayers to be offered up, deliberations to be held, compassionate measures to be taken, and the mitigation of punishments, are not devoid of perspicacity, while his suggestions as to the retrenchment of the luxuries of the table, with a view to ensuring the efficacy of prayers for rain in the northern provinces, entirely coincide with Our views. Their Majesties the Empresses have never failed in times of drought to offer up earnest prayers for rain within the Palace, but it is not for a Minister, however reverently, to undertake in Our stead to proceed on foot to the place of prayer. All that remains for Us to do is by self-examination and the cultivation of virtue, silently to implore Heaven in its mercy to bestow abundant and fertilising rain, that Our afflicted people in the three provinces may be preserved from the jaws of death. In bringing forward certain charges, the expositor displays his ignorance. It is true that the offerings of the Mongolian Princes and Dukes were accepted; this is in accordance with law. But all banquets were suspended, and no exhibitions whatever of fireworks were held. The proposals of the expositor with regard to the attendance of all Ministers of the Court at deliberations of the Council are made, no doubt, on the assumption that in a multitude of opinions there is advantage, but it is to be feared that the good would be merely nominal. It is much better that those who have the right to speak should submit their views to Us. We have not, as intimated by the expositor, been entirely influenced in Our actions and decisions by the Board, or been entirely powerless in their hands. The mitigation of punishments is an important factor in the administration during times of famine, and the Governors of the suffering provinces are hereby called upon to give careful attention to judicial matters with a view to securing prosperity and peace. Let Ting Pao-chên once more investigate the case in Szech'wan, for which the expositor requests a re-hearing. In these times of terrible famine and dearth, the Sovereign and his Ministers must be actuated by one and the same desire, and, early and late, be unwearying in their efforts for the rescue of the sufferers. As regards the Prince of Kung, he, being so closely allied to the Imperial House, is more particularly identified with the interests of the Empire, and is under the stronger obligation to exert himself loyally for the good of his country, making it his special charge to maintain peace and avert danger.

(2) A decree. Let Kün-k'i resume charge of the Superintendency of Customs at Canton.

(3) Ho-king, Governor-General of Min Chêh, and Pao-heng, Governor of Fuh-kien, request sanction for the reduction of the taxes on salt in certain districts in the Fuh-kien province which have suffered from floods. Two successive years of floods and wet weather have caused much damage to the salt establishments, and done great injury to the trade. No sooner had the damages occasioned by one flood been repaired, and losses by deterioration made good, than a second and more disastrous flood occurred. The result is that the salt traders have sustained great losses, and it will be impossible to collect the usual duties. The memorialists therefore propose to remit one-half of the taxes in those districts that have suffered from the floods, and to distribute the payment of the moiety over a period of five years. Those localities that have escaped the visitation of the floods will be called upon to pay duties as usual.—Referred to the Board of Revenue.

(4) Li Ho-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, and acting-Governor of Honan, reports the escape from the Chên-chow prison of a criminal charged with offences punishable by strangulation. The escape was effected during the absence of the Department Magistrate at a military inspection. The jail warden has been cashiered and committed for trial, and orders have been given for the re-capture of the prisoner within a limited period.

March 6th.—(1) A decree. Some time since the supervising Censor Hia Hien-shêng called attention to the necessity of taking steps for keeping in order the water supplies of the Empire, with a view to securing means of subsistence to the people. Provincial authorities were then called upon to give their attention to measures to this end. The Censor P'êng She-ch'ang now points out that the commencement of operations for the maintenance of water supplies in the northern provinces is of paramount importance. The provinces in the North have suffered from a succession of droughts and famines, to such an extent that supplies of food have entirely failed. Every effort should therefore be made to obtain proper water supplies, and Governors-General, Governors, and others, are hereby called upon, in reverent obedience to Our earlier decree, with all despatch to depute high officers to co-operate with the local authorities and gentry, and, giving due consideration to the requirements of particular localities, to take efficient steps to accomplish the object in view. Those who are successful must be recommended for distinction, while dilatoriness will, correspondingly, meet with punishment.

(2) A decree granting permission to Hiao-shun 孝順, Commandant of forces at Kurkara-usu, to vacate his post on account of ill-health.

(3) Postscript memorial by Ho-king, Governor-General of Min-cheh, giving further details as to changes in the military administration in Formosa, that had earlier been suggested by Shên Pao-chêng. The changes consist, for the most part, of a re-distribution of the higher military posts, and the transfer of the control of the forces from the Brigadier-General to the Governor.

(4) Kin Shun-ch'ang, acting-Commander-in-chief at Urumtsi, reports that, in consequence of the death of the Lieut.-Governor, he has taken temporary charge of the seals of office. Ying-kan, Lieut.-Governor of Urumtsi, was suffering from abscess in the early part of the winter, followed by an attack of dysentery which defied all remedies. On the 10th of January, he reverently prepared his testamentary memorial, giving orders that it should be sent to memorialist for transmission to Peking, and died on the evening of the same day. His seals of office were immediately forwarded to memorialist, who retains them until the Governor-General Tso Tsung-t'ang, to whom he has written, shall send an officer to take charge of them. (For Decree see *Gazette* of 13th Feb.)

(5) Postscript memorial by Li Ho-nien, Governor of Honan, requesting exemption from the obligation to purchase grain for provision against dearth, and for government purposes. Any deficiencies in the quantity of grain to be kept in store for the above objects, should be made good each autumn, but in the face of such widespread dearth and scarcity, when all the grain obtainable is required for the relief of the people, it would obviously be an injury to them to apply it to other purposes.—Rescript: Noted.

(6) The same officer reports the arrival of an official from Kwei-chow, to open a branch office for raising contributions. This arrangement has been made in accordance with a proposal, which received the Imperial sanction, to divert the proceeds of the Kwei-chow collectorate for six months to the relief of the sufferers by the famine.

March 7th.—(1) A decree ordering that Chang Kw'ei-shêng, an expectant second-class Secretary of one of the Boards at Moukden, be cashiered and placed on his trial for purchasing land under an assumed

name, and refusing to pay the tax thereon. When summoned to explain his neglect to do so, he had the audacity to tie up the runners and beat them.

(2) A decree once more deploring the continued absence of rain in Peking and the provinces adjoining. His Majesty has twice offered prayers in person at the Ta Kao Tien, and the Imperial Princes have burnt incense at the She Ying Kung and other state Temples, without success. Let the Prince of Chwang proceed on the 11th inst. to the Black Dragon Temple, there to offer incense and reside. Let the Tung Khor 'Hut'ukht'u also repair to the same Temple, to chant services and offer up earnest prayers.

(3) Shêu Pao-chêng reports deficiencies in the Treasury balances of seven officials, Magistrates and others, some of whom are dead, and some still retaining official rank. He proposes to recover the amount of the deficiencies of the deceased officers from their surviving relatives, and requests that the others may be cashiered with a view to being proceeded against.—Granted by rescript.

(4) Ch'ung How reports the result of an investigation into a case of forgery, in which two Government clerks conspired together some years ago to forge the Military Governor's seal and the stamp of the Secretary of the Board of Revenue. They purloined a number of blank registration forms, and affixed them, when stamped with the spurious seals, to title deeds, thus obtaining fees which should have gone to the Government. One of the clerks having been killed in action, the seals fell into the hands of a widow residing in the same house with whom he had formed an illicit connection. His confederate then borrowed them occasionally from her, till, in course of time, she also died. Her boxes were made over to her daughter, a married woman, and in them were found the spurious seals. The daughter, whose husband was absent with his regiment, not being able to read, could not of course tell that the seals were forgeries. The confederate having traced them into her possession, persuaded her to lend them to him, and certain deeds to which he affixed them having been detected to be forgeries, enquiry was instituted which led to the above discoveries. Sentence commensurate with the gravity of the offence will be passed upon the surviving clerk, and the spurious seals immediately destroyed. A proclamation will also be issued calling in all deeds to which he affixed the stamp.

(5) Che-kang, Imperial Agent at K'urun (Urga,) prays for an additional congé of two months to recruit his health. The two months congé already granted him has just expired, and he still suffers from pains in the head and dizziness. There are Mongolian doctors at K'urun, it is true, but he is afraid to place himself in their hands. —Rescript: Let Che-kang be granted a further congé of two months.

(6) P'uh Fêng, Kwei-ying, and Shao-k'i, request that money may be advanced for the construction of outer buildings and repairs to the Mu Tung-Ling (Mausoleum of Empress of Tao-kwang,) and some auspicious day in the first moon be selected by the Imperial Board of Astronomy for the commencement of operations. (See *Gazette* of Feb. 17th.)

March 8th.—(1) A Decree. Let Wang Wên-shao 王文韶 act as Senior Vice-President of the Board of War. T'ung Hwa 童華 need not act in that capacity.

(2) A decree. Let Wang Wên-shao be admitted to the Grand Council as a "probationer." (See *Gazette* of 23rd Nov., 1877, and 27th Feb., 1878.)

(3) A Decree ordering the immediate dismissal of Tsow Tsung-hao 鄒宗灝, officer in charge of the establishment for the collection of *lekin* on salt at Ch'ung-king, who had the audacity to detain certain junks, and extort Tls. 700 from the salt merchants. He must be sent to the capital of the province, and be placed on his trial.

(4) Fêng-shên, Military Governor of Tsitsihar, requests permission to delay the disbandment of the force organised for the suppression of brigandage. At the end of last year he reported that the force under the command of the Military Deputy Lieutenant-Governor at Merguen 墨爾根, had succeeded in suppressing brigandage in the province and the country adjoining, and suggested therefore that this force should be disbanded, and its members sent back to their respective companies. After the memorial had been despatched news was received of an extensive rising of brigands to the south of the Amur river, in the province of Kirin. The Deputy Lieutenant-Governor of Hêh-Lung-Kiang was at once instructed to dispose his forces in such a manner as to secure the safety of the province, and check the advance of the brigands northwards. Troops were accordingly stationed at Pa-yen-su-su, and other important points.

News being subsequently received of the dispersion of these brigands by the Kirin forces, the outlying troops were called in. The Deputy Lieutenant-Governor was, however, afraid to leave the more important out-posts unprotected, and retained detachments at Pa-yen-su-su and other places, in readiness for immediate action, and available, in case of urgency, for service across the border. The memorialist now considers it inadvisable to disband the force above referred to until matters look more settled in the districts on the other side of the river.—Rescript: Noted.

(5) Postscript memorial by the same officer representing the inadequacy of the daily allowance granted to members of the cavalry forces above referred to. Both men and horses have been very hard worked, and at least half of the latter are quite jaded. If proper work is to be got out of them they must be better fed. With the present high prices of grain and fodder, the amount allowed for rations and fodder is insufficient to keep either men or horses in good condition. Repeated representations have been made to the Board on the subject, but they have vouchsafed no reply. Memorialist therefore addresses himself to His Majesty, and prays that sanction may be granted to the issue of daily allowances on an increased scale, varying from one hundred and fifty to fifty *cash*. The old scale of allowances will be resumed as soon as prices are reduced.—Granted by rescript.

March 9th.—(1) A Decree. Yen King-ming (special High Commissioner for famine relief) and Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan (Governor of the province of Shansi) have memorialized Us recommending that the prohibition enacted in time past against the cultivation of the poppy be enunciated afresh. The growth of the poppy plant on the part of the population of the Empire, militating notably, as it does, against the agricultural food supply, has time after time been stringently forbidden; but notwithstanding this, the longstanding practice has continued to prevail, and the appetite for gain has caused injurious consequences to be left disregarded. Thus, in the province of Shansi, where a full moiety of the soil is stony and unproductive, whilst the yield of grain under any circumstances is inconsiderable, the efforts which should be diligently bestowed upon the tillage of every rood of ground are neglected, and the poppy plant is, instead, unlawfully grown. The population, having but scanty stores of grain laid by, fall victims to the scourge of famine at the first occurrence of a time of deficient harvest. In the grievous chastisement under which, unhappily, the province is now labouring, as the result of a season of drought, it should recognize the signal given [by Nature] for a change [in the order of events.] For the future, let it be regarded as a bounden duty to devote every effort to the pursuits of agriculture, to the end that the yield of grain be full to overflowing, and a store be provided against the evil time of scarcity. Yen King-ming and Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan have issued proclamations embodying their commands on the subject for general information, and We ordain that all which they propose be carried into effect, in the matter of enjoining upon the local headmen of families and villages to require that the poppy-plants be rooted up and the land converted to the cultivation of cereal crops—that any proprietors of land who fail to obey these commands be reported to the local authorities to be brought to justice—that all persons who connive at acts of disobedience shall be held liable to punishment—and that any Magistrates or official underlings who, in surreptitious violation of the laws, are found levying taxes upon the cultivation of the poppy, shall be subject to instant impeachment and deprivation of office. We farther command that in all the provinces there be instituted a stringent perquisition and prohibition in conformity with these present rules, so that beneficial results may be encouraged and a source of injury be removed, and that the people may enjoy in unison the blessings of abundant harvests, without relapsing into the courses in which evil has heretofore overwhelmed them. Let this be promulgated for public information.

(2) A Decree. The Board of Civil Office report that they have considered the penalty that should be inflicted on Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, who most carelessly requested sanction to the employment of a cashiered Intendant of circuit on special service; quite neglecting to add that he was under sentence of perpetual exclusion from employment. The Board request that, in accordance with the law against grave acts of personal impropriety, Ting Pao-chêng may be degraded three steps and transferred elsewhere.—As a special act of grace We commute the penalty to deprivation of rank with leave to remain at his post. (See *Gazette* of 23rd Feb.)

(3) A decree ordering that the name of Fuh Shêng, Deputy Lieutenant-General at Nanking, be handed over to the Board for

the infliction of a penalty. The views of Fuh Shêng on the subject of expenditure for defence purposes were not in accordance with those of Mu T'êng-ah, General-in-chief, and others of his colleagues. He refused to subscribe to their memorial, and failed to adopt the alternative measure of sending in a separate representation on his own account. In this he was guilty of serious neglect of duty.

(4) Postscript memorial by Ming Ch'un, Imperial Agent at Hami, reporting his return from his visit to Suh-chow, and the steps he has taken, after consultation with the Governor-General Tso, to secure proper communication along the route in rear of the advancing army. Now that the western army has gone forward, Hami is one of the most important points in their rear, forming, as it does, the throat-gate of the road to Turkestan, and arrangements have been made to secure the safety and protection of this and other important places along the route by which supplies must travel. The scarcity of provisions and high prices that have prevailed for a succession of years, with the deficiencies in the money contributions from various provinces, were also brought to the notice of the Governor-General, who undertook to write to the high authorities of the provinces from which contributions were due, and urge them to send forward supplies without delay. The Governor-General and memorialist are perfectly agreed as to the arrangements to be made, and memorialist will use his utmost endeavours to carry them out efficiently, and to give the attention which such important interests demand.

(5) Postscript memorial by the same officer reporting that the period of mourning for his step-mother has expired. In view of the importance of the operations in which he was engaged at the time of her death, he was not allowed to vacate his post.

(6) Postscript memorial by the same officer. The princess Pêsir, Mairibanu by name, mother of Mahommed, prince of the Mussulman tribe of Hami, was carried away southwards some years since, by the Shensi rebels, and a decree was issued ordering steps to be taken for the rescue of the princess and her restoration to Hami. During the years that have elapsed since her abduction, repeated enquiries have been made. She was heard of at Kuchê and other places, and was said to be safe and unhurt. At length, in the 11th moon of last year, a communication was received from Tso Tsung-t'ang stating that he had news from Liu Kin-t'ang to the effect that, on the recapture of Aksu on the 24th October last, the enemy were pursued as far as Humanako 胡瑪納阿, and several hundred Mussulman prisoners of both sexes that had been taken away by force from Hami were rescued; amongst their number was the princess Pêsir, mother of the prince of Hami. The princess and the distressed Mussulmen had been handed over to Chang-yeo, with instructions to send them back to Hami under escort. The memorialist at once communicated with Têk'êkina, Assistant Agent at Hami, and a company was detached to meet them. A letter was at the same time written to the prince, instructing him to depute a competent chief to go forward and receive his mother.

March 10th.—(1) A decree ordering renewed supplications for rain in consequence of the long protracted drought. The period at which nature awakes from the torpor of winter has now gone by, and the northern provinces have not yet been visited with fertilising rain, insomuch that the land is sorely thirsting for moisture. His Majesty will proceed in person, on the 15th inst., to the Tai Kao Tien to prostrate himself in earnest prayer, and will afterwards visit the She Ying Kung to burn incense. A number of the Imperial Princes are appointed to perform similar ceremonies on the same occasion at the various State Temples.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from Ch'ung How, conferring upon Tuh Hing-ah, late Commander-in-chief at Moukden, a posthumous title, in addition to honors already bestowed, as a special act of grace.

(3) A decree conferring the following appointments:—Jên Tao-jung 任道鎔 to be Financial Commissioner of Chekiang; Kwoh Ying 國英 to be Judicial Commissioner of Kiangsi; Chêng Fuh 成孚 to be Judicial Commissioner of Kwangtung.

(4) A memorial from Pao Hêng, acting Governor of Fukien, reporting the result of an investigation into a case of extortion on the part of an official underling, which resulted in the suicide of the victim. The following are the parties in the case:—Liu Ch'ên-yi, the suicide; Têng Hung-kwang, *tipao*; Wuh Tsung-yeo, and Chang Yeo-ts'üan, all natives of adjoining villages in the Kien-an district. Chang Yeo-ts'ing, a brother of Chang Yeo-ts'üan, in the month of November, 1875, was going on business from the place in which he lived, to a distant district town, the road to which led

through the Kien-an district. He had with him sixty dollars in cash, and an account book. On the second day of his journey he slipped while walking, fell heavily to the ground, and so injured himself that he lay insensible. Liu Ch'en-yi happened to be passing by, recognised Chang Yeo-ts'ing as the brother of his friend Chang Yeo-ts'üan, hired a chair, and took him to the brother's house, first relieving him of the dollars and account book. On arrival at the brother's house, he gave Chang Yeo-ts'ing into the sister-in-law's care, to whom he also handed the account book and thirty of the dollars; the other thirty he took away with him. When Chang Yeo-ts'ing came to his senses and was told by the sister-in-law of the money that had been left, he declared that he had been robbed by Liu Ch'ên-yi, but, in consideration of the service he had rendered him, decided to say no more about the matter. His brother Chang Yeo-ts'üan was present when this remark was made, and, a few days after, having met Têng Hung-kwang and Wu Tsung-yeo, told them what had happened to his brother. They tried to persuade him to recover the money on his own account, but this he declined to do. It was, however, eventually agreed that they should get the money and pay him twenty dollars, keeping the rest as a reward for their trouble. In accordance with this arrangement the two went a few days later to Liu Ch'en-yi's house, and invited him in the name of Chang Yeo-ts'ing to a feast which they pretended he was about to give to his relations and friends to celebrate his recovery. Liu Ch'en-yi accepted the invitation, and the three started off to the feast. The road lay past the house of Têng Hung-kwang the *tipao*, who invited them in to rest. When they were seated, Liu Ch'ên-yi was asked where the money was he had stolen from Chang Yeo-ts'ing. He denied having stolen any, whereupon they fastened him up with an iron chain, and kept him there for several days, till at last, under pressure of a threat of prosecution, he agreed to pay twenty dollars. They then demanded sixteen more, and, although they loosened his bonds, refused to let him go till these were paid. Whereupon Liu Ch'ên-yi, oppressed beyond endurance, and knowing not which way to turn, swallowed some opium that had been left on the table, and died the next day in spite of the efforts of his persecutors to resuscitate him. They then got a man to carry the body to the house of Chang Yeo-ts'ing and leave it there. Chang Yeo-ts'ing was about to report the unaccountable arrival of the dead body to the authorities, when Ting Hung-kwang, the *tipao*, came and offered to square the matter for him for forty dollars. The money was paid, and the *tipao* took his departure. The case in due course of time was brought to the notice of the authorities, and the Governor Ting being dissatisfied with the report that was sent up to him, denounced the magistrate, and sent a special officer to enquire into the matter, when the above facts were elicited. Têng Hung-kwang and his confederate were arrested, and confined in the prison at Foochow, from whence the former managed to escape, but was immediately recaptured. The punishment to which Têng Hung-kwang rendered himself liable in the first instance was strangulation after the usual term of incarceration, but as he dared to try to escape, the penalty should, in accordance with the law, be changed to summary execution. Wu Tsung-yeo, his confederate, has been sentenced to banishment to a distance of four thousand *li*.

(5) Wan Shun, superintendent of the Imperial Silk Manufactory at Soochow, sends in a return of receipts and disbursements for the year ending April 1877. Tacls 32,500 were received from the provincial treasury, which, added to a balance in hand of Taels 15,895, gives a total income Taels 48,395. The expenditure for the year was Taels 37,218, leaving balance in hand of Taels 11,177, which will be devoted to the manufacture of Court robes of woven embroidery, and other articles already ordered for Imperial use.

March 11th.—(1) A decree appointing Ho Chao-ying 何兆瀛 to the post of Salt Comptroller of Kwangtung, and Fang Ting-jui 方鼎銳 to that of Intendant of the Hang-Hia-Hu circuit in Chêkiang.

(2) A decree once more referring to the prolonged absence of rain, and directing Wên-koh to proceed at once to the T'ai-shan 泰山 (a sacred mountain in Shantung) to offer up prayers for rain.

(3) A decree in answer to a representation from the Board of Revenue complaining of the insufficiency of the contributions in grain forwarded for the support of the troops stationed at the Imperial Mausolea. Owing to the pressing demand for supplies in Shansi and Honan, the contributions from Shantung have fallen greatly into arrear, but there has been such a drain upon the resources of this province that it is unable to meet its engagements. The Board of Revenue at Moukden, which is

also greatly behindhand with its contributions, is ordered to send forward supplies at once, and the Governor of Shantung is directed to take steps for contributing his share as soon as possible.

(4) Ch'ung-how, Governor-General of Fêngt'ien, reports the result of subscriptions set on foot for the relief of the sufferers by famine in Shansi. Over twenty thousand piculs of millet have been collected amongst the resident officials, merchants, and traders from the West, which will be sent to Tientsin as soon as the frost breaks up. Subscribers have been rewarded with buttons or medals in accordance with the amount of their contributions, and the names of those who have subscribed largely with a hope of obtaining official rank will be submitted to the proper Board for consideration.

(5) Postscript memorial by the same officer asking for permission to retain under his orders seven officials from the province of Chihli, for whose services he had applied. The Board decided that they should be sent back, as the application for them was contrary to regulation. The memorialist points out that the transfer was made and reported before the regulation referred to was drawn up or approved. In consideration of this circumstance, and the fact that their services are urgently required, he hopes that the transfer may be sanctioned. —Granted by rescript.

(6) Yên-hü, military Governor of Jehho, requests permission to leave a company of cavalry, numbering fifty men, at Kiench'ang-hien, as a protection against banditti. A force of a hundred and fifty men had been sent up into this region for the dispersion of the mounted banditti, of whom they succeeded in capturing sixty. The rest have disappeared, but the memorialist does not consider it prudent to withdraw the whole of this force, as the movements of these brigands are rapid in the extreme. They assemble and disperse at very short notice, and on the arrival of the military are nowhere to be seen, while their departure is the signal for a fresh uprising, and wholesale robbery of the peaceable inhabitants.—Rescript: noted.

March 12th.—(Court Circular.) Ch'ên Lan-pin 陳蘭彬 (Minister to the United States, &c.), had audience of leave before going abroad.

(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Liu En-po, who represents that the Department Magistrates and Magistrates along the line of route between Shensi and Kansuh, whose duty it is to supply funds for the entertainment and expenses of high officers and others travelling by this route on public service, provide for expenditure under this head by increased taxation of the people in their respective jurisdictions. If this really be the case, the proceeding is most improper, and must at once be put a stop to. The Governors-General and Governors concerned are peremptorily to prohibit Department Magistrates and Magistrates from laying the burden of expenditure for entertainment and travelling arrangements upon the people, and high officers making use of the postal stage are called upon to keep their retinue and attendants in check, and not permit them to be exacting in their demands for entertainment which has to be provided at the public cost.

(3) A decree appointing Wên Chung-han 温忠翰, to the post of Intendant of the Wên (Wênchow) Ch'u circuit.

(4) Li Hung-mo, a Censor of the Supervisorate, etc., etc., kneeling presents a memorial upon the condition of jeopardy in which the interests of the State are now involved, and upon the exhaustion of the financial resources of the Empire, in view of which he solicits the issue of a decree enjoining in stringent terms the reduction of expenditure on the part of the various Provincial Governments, both as regards the outlay within their own several jurisdictions and also the subsidies allotted from their exchequers in aid of other [provinces and commands], to the end that a waste of public money may be checked and a safeguard provided for the welfare of the State.

He would humbly premise by observing that, at the present moment, among all the disasters [that have befallen, or that threaten] the Middle Kingdom, there is none greater than impoverishment; whilst of impoverishment the cause is not the insufficient extent of the wealth-producing field, but the excessive multiplication of outlets for expenditure. Since hostilities first became precipitated in consequence of the Rebellion, the Custom House duties and merchandize-tax *(lekin)* have been continually on the increase, bringing in annually an addition to the revenue of many millions; but although the entire Empire has long since been restored to a state of peace, and although the merchandize-taxes and Customs' duties have not been entirely done away with, financial straits are more pressing than they have ever been in past years, for the reason that the provincial governments have failed, on their part, to stop by stringent measures

the wasteful overflow of income in their various forms of expenditure.

The established revenue of the State is in its essence so adjusted as to provide for the regular needs of provincial administration; but, of late years, owing to the severity with which the three provinces of Shansi, Honan, and Shensi have been stricken with drought, the necessities entailed by way of expenditure for famine relief have brought about the highest imaginable degree of financial exigency. Your servant has been informed that the late Governor of Honan, Li K'ing-ngao, proposed to raise money by means of a European loan, and that the Special High Commissioner Yüan Pao-hêng (detailed from his post as Vice-President of the Board of Punishments), proposed that money should be borrowed from the mercantile associations trading under Government authority, both agreeing, however, in suggesting the land revenue as the security to be offered. Both, indeed, were themselves eyewitnesses of the calamitous visitation which has reduced the land to a desolate condition, and this last desperate expedient was proposed in despair of finding any other resource. Yet, how little were the need for anxiety as to the possibility of achieving the object in view, if the treasuries of the capital and the several provincial Governments had but a reserve of three or four years' expenditure in hand! Your Majesties, the Empresses Regent and the Emperor, practice in your Imperial persons the virtue of frugality, and are oppressed, by day and night, with feelings of anxious solicitude; but the high provincial authorities—it may be from failure to appreciate rightly the Sovereign's desire for retrenchment of outlay, shew themselves intent upon objects which are not of the first importance, with the result that millions and tens of millions of the resources of the State are wasted yearly. At the first pressure of distress owing to flood or drought, men are consequently driven to gaze about them impotently in despair, and to fold their hands, knowing not what to do.

It remains to be observed that the most important of the departments of outlay to which the provincial administrations are liable are three in number, to wit: the army, the provision against breach of the Yellow River embankments, and the relief of distress in times of famine. Apart from these, there are few items of expenditure which cannot be postponed. As regards the current expenditure of the provincial administrations, it is scarcely necessary to remark that the heaviest outlay is that which is occasioned by the campaign beyond the Wall. The exigency of military affairs is too pressing to admit of the subject being rashly discussed; but, apart from this, the number of forms of outlay which might be deferred for the present is by no means inconsiderable. Your servant cannot pretend to a thorough acquaintance with all the details of expenditure, multifarious as these are, throughout the Empire; but what he feels to be the most pressing subject of anxiety at this moment is the fact that notwithstanding the greatness of the Empire, there should not be a reserve in hand for so much as half a year's expenditure, whilst, in a time of famine, commotions and revolt are so liable to occur; and, were a state of warfare once more to arise, it is impossible to say where means could be found to provide for the necessities that would ensue.

After anxious reflection, Your servant would entreat that a decree be issued enjoining upon the high authorities of all the provinces the duty of bestirring themselves actively on behalf of the imperilled public interest, and uniting their efforts toward relief of the difficulties which now beset the State. In all questions of expenditure within their own jurisdictions, or of subsidies allotted on their behalf from other provinces, they should point out, in reports to the Throne, whatever forms of outlay are not of pressing importance, and are open to considerations of postponement. . . . . This humble expression of his views is accordingly submitted.

Rescript, referring the above for the consideration of the Board of Revenue, already published.

(5) A joint memorial from Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Liang Kiang, and Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, recommending for honorary distinction a number of persons who have been particularly energetic in affording relief to the refugees from the North at Soochow, Yangchow, and other places, or have been active in promoting subscriptions, or contributing personally, at Shanghai.

(6) The Governor-General, in a postscript memorial, reports the measures taken for the relief of the refugees above referred to. Last year no less than twenty thousand of these collected at Soochow, and in spite of local endeavours to provide for them, combined with monetary aid from Shanghai, it was extremely difficult to minister to the wants of so large a number. The local authorities came forward gallantly with

assistance, and the joint efforts of the Financial Commissioner of Hupeh and a Secretary of the Grand Council who happened to be on a visit to their native place, are particularly deserving of commendation. These two officers were most energetic in raising subscriptions, and opened a relief agency at their own expense, which maintained over five thousand nine hundred refugees. From November, 1876, to the end of May, 1877, when the refugees were provided with funds and sent back, twenty-eight thousand and ninety-five strings of *cash* (about Taels 20,000) were expended on the purchase of food, wadded clothes, medicines, coffins, &c. A list is submitted of persons who are entitled to honorary distinction.

March 13th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Yên King-ming, special commissioner for famine relief in Shansi, and Tsêng Kwo-ts'üan, Governor of that province, requesting that troops may be sent from Honan to escort the tribute rice from Shantung diverted for the relief of sufferers in Shansi, and requesting that orders may be given for the speedy despatch of this rice from Shantung. The sufferers in Shansi are in urgent need of relief, and the Governor of Shantung is instructed to cause the balance of the Shantung tribute rice set aside for this purpose, amounting to seventy thousand piculs, at once to be sent forward by water to the town of Tao-k'ow 道口 in Honan, and there handed over to an officer from Shansi who will be sent to receive it, and forward it to Shansi by instalments. The Governor of Honan is called upon to send a body of active troops to escort it into Shansi, and these are to be aided by detachments supplied by the authorities along the line of route.

(2) A decree ordering the Court of Censors and the Board of Punishments to investigate a charge of theft brought against a Secretary of the Board of Punishments. T'ung Hwa-kwoh, Assistant Second Secretary in the Board of Punishments, charges Liu Chêng-p'in, Senior Secretary in the same Board, with having purloined certain security bonds which he, T'ung Hwa-kwoh, had prepared for the purpose of supplying guarantees for fellow-provincials. One of these bonds, he states, was sold by Liu Chêng-p'in to a money-shop for four hundred taels, and was used by an individual called Ch'ên Jên-si, who, falsely representing himself to be a Hwai-an salt merchant, presented himself at the Board of Revenue, armed with this guarantee of respectability, and volunteered to contribute to the famine relief fund on condition that a certain number of salt permits were allotted to him. In answer to this charge, an explanation is offered by two Senior Secretaries of the Board of Revenue, natives of the same province (Szechuen) as the complainant. They state that it is the practice of all Assistant Second Secretaries to give these guarantees, which are deposited in a head-office, ready for use. Ch'ên Jên-si having offered to contribute to the Shansi famine relief fund, went to the Board of Revenue to get a bond, and they, after some consideration, filled in for him one of T'ung Hwa-kwoh's stamped securities, but they heard afterwards that the Board had declined his terms. Ch'ên Jên-si did subscribe four hundred taels for repairs to a club founded by his native town, but T'ung Hwa-kwoh had been misinformed as to money having been raised on his security bond. These statements are greatly at variance, and enquiry is therefore directed to be made.

(3) A memorial from the supervising Censor Wên-ming, commenting on the report by the Governor of Shensi of defalcations on the part of a District Magistrate named Fang Yên-hi. (See *Gazettes* of 26th January and 22nd February.)

(4) Postscript memorial by Tso Tsung-t'ang. He reports that the *Daidji*, or nobles under the domination of the Prince of the *K'och'in* Mahommedans at Turfan, have hitherto been selected by that Prince for merit or ability, and recommended to the Commandant of the forces at Turfan, who, in turn, memorialises the Throne for sanction to their succession to the order. On the capture of Turfan last year, the Mahommedan Prince had long been dead, and there was not a *Daidji* alive; consequently there was no one to administer Mahommedan affairs, which was most inconvenient. The "turban-wearing" Mussulmans of Turfan have now elected by common consent a *Bayen* to perform the duties of *Daidji*, and have requested that the necessary authority be granted him. The memorialist has accordingly given him credentials, authorising him temporarily to perform the duties of the office, that he may test his ability before recommending him for permanent succession.

March 14th.—(1) A decree in answer to a representation from the supervising Censor Ma Hiang-ju, calling attention to the frequency of burglaries and robberies in the capital of late. The office of gendarmerie and various metropolitan authorities are called upon to exert themselves

and arrest the perpetrators of these robberies.

(2) A decree based on a memorial from the same Censor, calling on the high authorities of the provinces afflicted by famine to make careful enquiry into the conduct and ability of Department Magistrates and Magistrates in the famine districts. Those who perform their duties efficiently are to be specially recommended, and all incompetent and careless officers are to be unsparingly denounced.

(3) A decree appointing Sun Yih-king 孫詒經 to the post of sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, with brevet rank as Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies.

(3) Decree appointing Ts'üan-lin 銓林 chief Supervisor in the Imperial Supervisorate of Instruction.

(4) Liu Kuen-yi, Governor-General of the Liang-kwang, and Chang Chao-tung, Governor of Kwantung, represent a meritorious case of filial devotion on the part of a young girl twenty-one years of age, the daughter of an expectant Magistrate in the province of Kwangtung. She had been with her father from childhood, was well educated, and bore a deserved reputation for virtue and intelligence. Her father fell ill in the spring of last year, and she devoted herself to nursing him. At the end of six months his malady increased, and the daughter then cut a piece of flesh from her arm and mixed it with his medicine. The remedy however proved ineffectual, so she vowed to sacrifice her life to his, and poisoned herself on the day that her father died. The memorialists apply for sanction to the erection of a memorial structure in honour of her devotion.—Granted by rescript.

(5) The Governor of Shantung requests sanction to the exchange of posts by two District Magistrates, one of whom has been appointed to a district within the prescribed limit of five hundred *li* from his native place.—Referred to the Board of Civil Office.

(6) Postscript memorial by the same officer, regretting that the obstinate adherence to old custom on the part of the people of Shantung renders it impossible to deliver the annual quota of tribute rice within the appointed time. A portion of the winter instalment for the year 1877, amounting to 250,000 piculs, still remains to be collected, but there is more than sufficient in store to supply the provinces of Honan and Shansi with the 16,000 piculs that have been ordered to be diverted for the relief of the sufferers by famine. Orders have been given for this amount to be weighed out and placed in boats, which will leave as soon as the frost breaks up. (See *Gazette* of 13th March.)

March 15th.—A memorial from Li Ho-nien, acting Governor of Honan, and Yuan Pao-hêng, special High Commissioner for famine relief in the same province, appealing earnestly for assistance in the relief of the sufferers by famine. The drought with which the province has been visited for several years in succession has resulted in a famine, the like of which for intensity and extent has never yet been known. As autumn advanced into winter, the number of those in need of relief was daily on the increase, until they could at last be counted by millions. The lower classes were first affected, and soon disappeared, or dispersed in search of subsistence elsewhere. Now, the famine has attacked the wealthy and well-to-do, who find themselves reduced to greater straits as each day goes by, and they in their turn are dying off, or following those who have already disappeared. In the earlier period of distress the living fed upon the bodies of the dead; next, the strong devoured the weak; and now, the general destitution has arrived at such a climax that men devour those of their own flesh and blood. History contains no record of so terrible and distressing a state of things, and if prompt measures of relief be not instituted, the whole region must become depopulated. With so terrible a spectacle before their eyes, the memorialists are filled with burning impatience and intense vexation of spirit. Local sources of supply are entirely exhausted; the granaries are empty, the treasury drained dry; taxation has ceased, and not a *cash* of revenue is coming in, while the few wealthy people the province contains have helped with contributions and loans till they are utterly impoverished." It only remains, therefore, to turn to other sources for aid. The Governor, in a recent memorial detailing the straits to which he was reduced for want of funds, suggested that a foreign loan of one million taels should be raised. The immediate wants of the province are, however, too numerous to admit of more than a portion of this sum being devoted to the relief of the more urgent cases of distress. After careful consideration, therefore, the memorialists submit the following proposals:—First, that the entire supply of grain due from Kiangsi and Nganhwei to Peking for the coming year, amounting to 90,000 piculs, be diverted to Honan. Second, that Li Hung-chang,

Governor-General of Chihli, who has volunteered to supply 30,000 piculs of rice, the balance of the stock accumulated at Tientsin for sale at reduced rates, be authorised to remit this amount. Third, that two-thirds of the stock in the charitable granaries in Kiangsu, which they estimate at one million piculs, may be supplied on loan. It shall be repaid in instalments, commencing after the gathering of the autumn harvest, and shall not fail to be sent forward irrespective of the crops being plentiful or the reverse. Fourth, that the sum of $500,000 in foreign currency, being the amount of contributions raised by Ting Jih-chang, Governor of Fuhkien, for the construction of the railway in Formosa, may also be lent to the province of Honan. This expedient has been suggested by the Governor-General Li Hung-chang and others, who inform the memorialists that the amount contributed is insufficient to carry out the operations contemplated; and that, as these have not yet been commenced, there can be no objection to diverting the money temporarily to a more urgent want. The memorialists hope that the commencement of operations will not be delayed by the diversion of this fund, which will be a substantial aid towards the relief so urgently called for at the present moment. They feel assured that the Governor-General Ho Tsing-kung, who so loyally identifies himself with the interests of his country, and the Governor Ting Jih-ch'ang, who is so determined in his efforts for the relief of suffering, will show due consideration for the homeless and the wanderer, and consent to a temporary loan of the fund applied for. (For decree see *Gazette* of 24th February.)

March 16th.—(1) A Decree. A memorial has this day been received from Tso Tsung-t'ang, Kin Shun, and Liu Tien, forwarded by express at the rate of 600 *li* a day under the "red flag," * reporting the recovery of the four western cities of the *Nan lu* (Kashgaria), and the complete subjugation of the New Dominion. After the recapture of the four eastern cities of Kashgaria by the Imperial army last year, Liu Kin-t'ang organised plans for the systematic recovery of the four western towns of the same region. He directed Yüh Hu-ngên, General-in-chief, to advance by way of Aksu and Barchuk Maralb'ashi with the main army, while Hwang Wan-p'êng and others were directed to proceed with the reserves by way of Ush. It was understood that they should first assail Kashgar, and the date of attack was agreed upon, Liu Kin-t'ang in the meanwhile occupying Barchuk Maralb'ashi in order to retain possession of the principal line of communication. He set out from thence on the 19th December, and advanced by forced marches on Yarkand, which he took possession of on the 21st. On the 24th, he again pushed forward at double the ordinary rate of speed, and occupied Yingishar, after which he resumed his march and arrived before Kashgar on the 26th. Yüh Hu-ngên and his colleague had reached the city nine days before him, and attacked it from different points. The rebels under the *soi-disant* Generalissimo Wang Yuan-lin were first exterminated, and a force of from three to four thousand cavalry and infantry who came to their rescue were vigorously engaged by Yüh Hu-ngên. In the meantime the city gates were opened by the rebels, and they fled pell-mell, hotly pursued by Yüh Hu-ngên and Hwang Wan-p'êng, who followed them in different directions. The enemy were completely disorganised, and one of their leaders, Kan Siao-hu 干小虎, was captured alive, while others were beheaded on the field of battle, and the whole force exterminated. The General-in-Chief Siao Yuan-hêng having joined forces with Hwang Wan-p'êng, followed up the pursuit, and succeeded in capturing alive the *soi-disant* Generalissimo Ma Yüan, and beheading his second in command, their force being also exterminated. Kan Siao-hu and Kin Siang-yin, a rebel leader, with his son, were put to death by Liu Kin-t'ang and their heads exposed, and over eleven hundred of the rebels at Kashgar were executed; the remainder disappeared entirely. The General-in-chief T'ung Fuh-siang advanced rapidly upon Khoten, and on the 2nd of January and the following days occupied himself in the destruction of the rebels and the pacification of the people, bringing this town also under complete subjugation. Since the revolt of the Buruts (Black Kirghis) in 1864, under the Mahommedan rebel Kin Siang-yin and others, Kashgar and seven other towns in the South fell into their hands, and, subsequently, Turfan and Urumtsi. For more than ten years has the Court been reverently undergoing the chastisement of Heaven. Tso Tsung-t'ang was specially invested with the title of Imperial Commissioner, and called upon to take the management of military operations in the New Dominion;

[* Note. The Red flag is borne by couriers carrying Memorials announcing great victories.]

and this high officer, intent at once upon the work of extermination and pacification, first devised and carried out measures for the subjugation of the *Peh Lu* (Sungaria.) He commenced with the recapture of Urumtsi, that he might hold command of a strong position ; then Manas was recovered, and, advancing by several routes simultaneously, he took in succession Turfan and other strongholds. The important places in Eastern Kashgaria being wrested from the insurgents, he marshalled his army and advanced Westwards. By a series of rapid movements, accomplished as easily as the splitting of a bamboo, he secured possession of the eight towns of Southern Kashgaria, all of which are now in his hands. Prayerful reliance on a mighty Providence, and trust in the fostering aid of an illustrious ancestry, has enabled their Majesties the Empresses, unceasing in their solicitude and unwearying in their efforts, to discover a skilful and capable agent actuated by the same spirit in the treatment of the stranger and those of his own race ; a leader who has executed his commands with a brilliant success that will afford solace to the spirit of the departed Emperor that reigns in Heaven, and has realised the hopes of officials and people. Our consolation and joy are indeed profound, and it becomes our duty to endow the leader of our army, battered by wind and rain, and exposed to every hardship, with the highest mark of Imperial grace, as a reward for his exertions. We command that Tso Tsung-t'ang, Imperial Commissioner, Grand Secretary, Governor-General of Shênsi and Kansuh, who has shown a capacity for military administration in every particular, and has been mindful to report to Us with promptitude, shall be advanced from the dignity of a *Peh* (third order of hereditary nobility) of the first grade, to that of *How* (second order of hereditary nobility) of the second grade. We command that Liu kin-t'ang, expectant sub-director of a minor metropolitan department of the third grade, who has displayed bravery and prudence in a great degree, and shown an aptitude in the device of expedients to secure victory, carrying his success to the most distant regions, be advanced from the distinction of *K'i Tu Yü* (seventh order of hereditary nobility), to that of *Nan* (fifth order) of the second grade, and be placed first on the list for promotion to the substantive post of sub-director of a minor metropolitan department of the third grade. Here follows a list of distinctions to be conferred on other officers, occupying thirty pages of the *Gazette*.

(2) Memorial from the Board of Revenue in answer to the memorial from the Governor of Honan and the Special High Commissioner for famine relief, published in the *Gazette* of the 15th. They negative the proposal for the diversion of the grain due from Kiangsi and Nganhwei for the coming year, as it would strip the Peking granaries of their supplies, which have already been largely drawn upon for the relief of Honan. The Board, while fully alive to the immensity of the distress in Honan, are obliged, as custodians of the public exchequer, to consider general interests. They have sanctioned loans to this province to the amount of upwards of 489,000 Taels in currency and 100,000 piculs of tribute rice. The Peking granaries do not now contain more than a fifth of their ordinary stock. From Honan alone is owing not less than 3,000,000 piculs, irrespective of loans from other provinces that have to be repaid. They recommend the adoption of the other proposals put forward by the memorialists. (See *Gazettes* of 24th Feb. and 15th March.)

March 17th.—(1) A decree conferring rewards on the officers in charge of the Privy Cabinet Office and the Council Messenger's Office, who received and forwarded the memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang announcing the subjugation of Turkestan.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Jung Lu on prison reform. It is the duty of all criminal courts to expedite cases that come before them, and not, as frequently happens, allow them to drag on for an interminable period, till the accused dies from emaciation before he is condemned. Orders on this subject have already been issued to the provinces. The Board of Punishments, Prefect of Shun-t'ien, and other metropolitan authorities, are now called upon to clear off outstanding cases. All witnesses now in custody are to be examined without delay and released on bail.

(3) A decree again referring to the victories in the New Dominion. This region, which has been in a state of revolt for more than ten years and was the cause of unceasing anxiety to the late Emperor, having been subjugated by Tso Tsung-t'ang, the spirit of his late Majesty now in Heaven will be much solaced at the intelligence. The Prince of Li is directed to go to the Lung Fuh Sze temple, and after having performed the usual ceremonies before the sacrificial table in front of the late Emperor's tablet, he is to offer a libation and inform the spirit of his departed Majesty of the success that has been achieved. The Han-lin College

are to prepare the announcement to be read by the Prince of Li.

(4) A further decree on the same subject, recognising the propriety of rewarding the members of the Grand Council, who have been unwearying in their efforts to promote the success of the campaign. The Imperial Clan Court is directed to determine a distinguished form of reward for the Prince of Kung, and the Grand Secretary Pao-yün, the Assistant Grand Secretary Shên Kwei-fên, and King-lien, President of the Board of War, are commended to the Board for the determination of special forms of distinction; Wang Wên-shao (lately admitted to the Council on probation) is to receive an ordinary mark of distinction.

(5) T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Kwang-si, reports the capture of an ex-military officer who has been guilty of acts of brigandage in Annam, which were made the subject of complaint by the King of Annam. He is to be beheaded in a public place, and his head sent to the Annamese frontier for exposure.

(6) Teng Ch'ing-lin denounces a *dzassak*, or chieftain, of the Khorch'in tribe of the "Inner Mongols," whom he charges with acts of oppression, wrongdoing, and unbridled license, and requests that his seal of office may be taken away from him.

March 18th.—(1) A Decree. Tso Tsung-t'ang having reported to us the recapture of the towns in Kashgaria, and the subjugation of the New Dominion, We have already bestowed special marks of Our favour upon this high officer and other leaders of our armies. Since the revolt of the Mahommedans in the New Dominion, now more than ten years since, there have been various officers who have displayed energy in the extirpation of the rebels, sacrificing their lives on the field of battle, or in the defence of strongholds which, in obedience to orders, they have maintained in the face of danger. Now that order is firmly established in this region, and meritorious services are being proclaimed, it behoves Us to recall to remembrance the merits of those of earlier days, for whom Our pity and compassion are profound. Let Tso Tsung-t'ang carefully ascertain the names of all officers that have been killed in action beyond the frontier during the years that this campaign has lasted, and let him report these to Us, and await the manifestation of Our favour.

(2) A decree on the same subject, recognising the propriety of adding the name of Kin-shun, Military Governor of Ili, to the number of those that should be rewarded for the successes lately achieved. This officer greatly distinguished himself in the combined attack on Urumtsi and other places, and has shown care and vigilance in the maintenance of order in the region over which he has been placed in command. He is to be advanced three steps and placed first on the list for promotion to any vacancy to which he can be appointed.

(3) Li Ho-nien, Governor of Honan, requests that rewards may be conferred on a General and Brigade-General who respectively contributed Taels 1,000 and 1,000 wadded coats for the sufferers by famine.

(4) Liu Ping-chang, Governor of Kiangsi, in a postscript memorial forwards a report from the Taotai of Kiukiang to the effect that, it being customary to draw up on yellow paper a list of the "polished" and "round" porcelain prepared annually in bulk for the Imperial use under the direction of the Kiukiang Custom House, he submits the list for transmission. In the course of last year, eighty pieces of superior "polished" porcelain were prepared, and twelve hundred and four pieces "round" porcelain. This does not include porcelain lamps and other utensils for use in the Show-Hwang-tien and other Halls, for which orders have repeatedly been given. The articles will be sent to Peking by steamer under the charge of a special officer. Of the annual grant of Taels 10,000, Taels 4,535 have been spent, leaving a balance of Taels 5,465, which should be returned to the Office of Imperial Manufactories.

(6)—Tso Tsung-t'ang memorialises requesting that a peacock's feather may be bestowed on a *daidji*, or noble, of the second-class chieftains of the Khoshoit 和碩特, tribe, called Cha-pu-tê-lo-k'o, who has rendered great assistance to the Imperial troops. His tribe, and that of the Turguts, nomad Mongols of Kokonor, had taken up their abode in the country adjoining that peopled by the Mahommedans, and were located there at the commencement of the revolt of these tribes. They were much harassed by the "turban wearing" Mussulmans, and, subsequently, by the Andijani, who profited by the confusion they were in to make an onslaught upon them, dispersing the Turguts and destroying more than half of the other tribe. The *daidji* referred to collected the scattered remnants of these tribes, and removed with them to a place called G'orht'u-shan, which he defended with great tenacity. On the capture of T'oksun last year, he came to the camp and had an interview with Liu Kin-t'ang, who ordered him to return and

keep a watch over the movements of the rebels, supplying Liu Kin-t'ang from time to time with information he might obtain. On the advance of the troops in September, he and his tribe went forward too, and were most useful as pioneers, giving valuable information as to the depths of water to be crossed, the safety of certain routes, etc., etc., and when the army had crossed the Kaidu river, he followed and pitched his camp to the eastward of the stream, taking up a position of observation and defence. —Granted by rescript.

March 19th.—The greater portion of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a memorial from the Censor Chang Kwan-chun, advocating on behalf of thirteen salt merchants from Hwai-ngan 淮安 in Kiang-su, the extension of the number of salt licenses issued for that "area." These merchants are willing to subscribe Taels 400,000 towards the Shansi Famine Relief Fund, in return for a concession of licenses for ten thousand *yin*, being at the rate of Taels 4 per *yin*. The memorialist discusses the subject at great length, first entering into a consideration of the extent and area of the famine in the north, and the necessity of instituting prompt measures for relief. To carry these out efficiently large sums are required, and no opportunities of obtaining them should be neglected. He then dwells upon the claims these merchants have to consideration. By an enactment of the Board of Revenue a year or more ago, the Hwai-ngan salt trade, which had fallen into decay, was resuscitated, and the Szech'wan salt trade was put a stop to. The issue of licenses for the Hwai-ngan trade was, however, limited to those merchants who had originally engaged in it, and the consequence is that the merchants referred to find their business at an end. The Hwai-ngan salt trade is capable of great extension, the number of licenses at present issued being only three-tenths of the original number. As an increase in the number of licenses issued would augment the revenue, and at the same time be the means of obtaining a substantial addition to the Famine Relief Fund, the memorialist urges the acceptance of the proposals submitted by the merchants. The decree in answer to this memorial has already been published.

March 20th.—A decree consenting to a proposal from Wan Ts'ing-li, Governor adjoint of the Imperial Prefecture of Shun-t'ien, that the soup kitchens in and around Peking may be kept open for a further period of two months, and an additional grant of money and rice issued for their maintenance.

(2) Fêng Shên, Military Governor of Hên Lung-kiang, memorialises with reference to an appeal lodged by one Wang King-tien, accusing certain persons of having caused the death of his brother, Wang King-shun, who hanged himself some years ago in consequence of an altercation he had with some neighbours, agriculturists, and died by his own hand. The body was inspected by a corpse examiner, and no marks of violence other than the self-inflicted one having been discovered, the usual guarantee was given, and it was handed over to the relatives of the deceased for interment. Wang King-tien, the brother, then went to Peking and lodged an appeal, which was referred in the usual manner to memorialist. A second examination of the corpse was made with the same result, and the appellant, who had been sent with the corpse examiner to be present at the inquest, having made his escape while being escorted back to prison, once more found his way to Peking, and again appealed. Memorialist was referred to a second time, and seeing how persistently Wang King-tien asserted that the body showed other marks of violence than those reported, began to think that an injustice might possibly have been done through the incompetence of the local corpse examiner. He accordingly applied for the services of a secretary and an experienced corpse examiner from Moukden. Sanction was granted by decree dated 17th March, 1877, and in due course of time the secretary and examiner arrived. After inspecting the records of the case, and putting a few general questions to the plaintiff and defendant, they proceeded, with the parties to the suit and their witnesses, to the place where the body was deposited, to make an inspection of it. They found the coffin moved from its original position, and the seals that had been placed upon it injured. At this juncture the examiners who had originally inspected the corpse informed the secretary that on that occasion the appellant and his father had consented to the test by "steaming" on the sole condition that the flesh had entirely decayed, stipulating that if any flesh remained the *pai-kiang* process (test by the application of lime, the lees of wine, salt, and vinegar) should be resorted to. To this stipulation they adhered on the present occasion, obstinately refusing to listen to persuasion from the secretary, showing by the absurdity of their demand that there was trickery somewhere. Before proceeding further

with the inquest, the secretary applied to the memorialist for instructions, and he referred him to the "Coroners' Manual," which clearly lays down the course to be pursued, adding that Wang King-tien could exercise no choice in the matter. The coffin was then opened in the presence of the parties and a number of witnesses. The body was swathed in blue cotton cloth, and the examiners who had inspected it before declared that it was then wrapped in white cotton cloth, a most significant fact in the opinion of the secretary. They found that the skin had turned black, and dried on to the bones, spots of mildew appearing in different places, and the bones showing through where the body had been eaten by worms. The skin was hard, and would not yield to the touch, and the examiners declared that it would be impossible to verify the statements of the appellant by the *pai-kiang* process, so they must have recourse to "steaming," which necessitated disintegration of the body. Before this can be done, a deed of authorisation must be signed by a near relative of the deceased, whose duty it also is himself to raise the head of the corpse. Wang King-tien persistently declined to sign this authorisation, so the examination came to a standstill. The Secretary suggested that an Imperial Warrant should be applied for compelling the man to authorise the test. The memorialist thought he would first try his powers of persuasion and had Wang King-tien brought before him; but the man was obstinate, and persisted in his refusal. In view of the fact that two appeals have been made to Peking, three inquests held, and Wang King-tien's charges, extending over a period of six years, still remain unrefuted or substantiated, the memorialist thinks the matter ought now to be thoroughly cleared up, and he therefore prays that the Board of Punishments may be instructed to indicate to him the course he should pursue under the present circumstances.

March 21st.—(Court Circular) The Prince of Chêng has presented his testamentary memorial.

(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Pao-t'ing, Tutor of the Imperial Academy 國子監, submitting for the immediate consideration of the proper Board certain proposals for the better execution of measures for famine relief. He first calls attention to the rapacity of the subordinate officials in the famine districts, who by their extortionate conduct deter many merchants from sending forward supplies of rice for sale. The high authorities concerned are called upon to look into this matter, and put an immediate stop to the malpractices complained of.—He next suggests the advisability of utilising the bean cake produced in the South, which is perfectly capable of supporting life, as an article of food. The prohibition against the sale of this article north of the Hwaingan barrier in Kiangsu is accordingly removed. — He suggests, in the third place, that instead of drawing supplies of rice from the southern provinces and raising the price locally, foreign rice be purchased. The superintendents of foreign trade are directed to consider the practicability of this scheme, and, if possible, to give effect to it.—Fourthly, the Metropolitan authorities and the Governor-General of Chihli are called upon to consider a proposal of the memorialist that a portion of the tribute rice forwarded to Peking shall be sold in the capital at reduced rates, and the China Merchants' Co. be directed to purchase more rice with the proceeds to supply the deficiency in the Peking Granaries.—A proposal by the same officer in a postscript memorial, that officials who are not entitled to memorialise shall be allowed to make representations through the Court of Censors, as well as through their immediate superiors, is also sanctioned, though the necessity for this mode of procedure is not recognised.

(2) A decree in answer to a suggestion from the censor T'ien Han-ch'e directing the various provincial authorities to supply the famine refugees with seed when practicable, and send them back to their homes, that they may not miss the season for tilling their fields.

(3) A decree expressing regret on the death of the Prince of Chêng. During the reign of the late Emperor he succeeded to the title, and was decorated by His Majesty with a three-eyed peacock's feather. In the performance of his duties as Lieutenant-General of a Banner corps, high officer for military inspection and comptroller of the active forces, he displayed assiduity and diligence, endeavouring to acquit himself with sedulous attention. When he fell sick some time ago, We granted him leave of absence in the hope that by taking care of his health he might be spared to enjoy the Imperial favour. We have received the intelligence of his decease with deep regret, and command that a *to-lo* pall be bestowed upon him. We also direct the *beilêh* Tsai Ying at once to proceed with ten officers of our guard to offer a funeral libation, and, as a special

grace, we ordain that in addition to the donations appointed by law, Taels 1,000 shall be granted from the Privy Purse for the expenses of his obsequies. All official penalties recorded against his name are hereby remitted. The proper Yamên are to ascertain the particular ceremonies to be performed at his obsequies, and memorialise thereon.

(4) Ch'ing Shên 慶陞 is permitted to vacate his post of junior Vice-president of the Board of Revenue, on account of ill-health.

(5) Decrees conferring the following appointments vacant by the death of the Prince of Chêng. Inspector of forces, Lung Ts'in 隆勤; Lieutenant-General of the Bordered White *Han Kün* Banner, Wên Yü 文煜; Comptroller of the forces on active service, Po-yên-na-mo-hu 伯彥訥謨祜.

March 22nd.—(1) A decree again deploring the absence of rain, and ordering a renewed series of services at the various State temples. His Majesty will visit the Ta-kao-tien and the Süan-jên-miao.

(2) A Decree. The snows of winter have been scarce in the provinces that were last year visited by famine, and the rains of spring have failed in their season. We have again and again erected altars and offered up earnest supplications, praying for the lives of Our people; but day after day has the sun risen bright and clear, to be followed by storms of wind. The season of spring has now arrived, and still not a drop of moisture has fallen. The land for a thousand *li* is bare, and agriculture cannot be carried on; while the dead exceed the living in number. How can these things be borne? We, whose duty it is to watch over the millions of Our people with fostering care, feel that the loss of one of Our subjects is the result of Our misdoing. How much more intense must this feeling be when a drought prevails so extensive as this, when the starving people are as many as this! Some consider that rain is withheld because of the prevalence of idleness, self-indulgence, inactivity, and sloth, resulting in degeneration and neglect of duty; or that the system of Government, though complete in form, is a name and not a reality; or, again, that punishments do not reach their object, and that the people are silently enduring wrongs they cannot complain of. Failure in one of these particulars would be sufficient to provoke the wrath of Heaven. Their Majesties the Empresses have repeatedly admonished Us, saying what have the people done that they should suffer this calamitous want? If Heaven sends down punishments, why may they not be transferred to the Court and the people spared this misery? When Tso Tsung-t'ang recently reported his victories, We were again exhorted by their Majesties that, though military operations in the New Dominion were at an end, drought in Our immediate neigbourhood still prevailed, and the afflicted provinces had not regained their wonted condition. It was, therefore, still necessary to give heed to Our ways with reverence and fear, and not suffer the slightest appearance of complacency or content. We have this day again been commanded by their Majesties that with the distress prevailing in Shansi and Honan before them, those in high place should not suffer indulgence in the slightest extravagance. They accordingly direct the High Officer of the Imperial Household to instruct the secretaries of departments to exercise retrenchment in the various branches of palace expenditure. He is to report to their Majesties without delay the amount of the economies that can be effected, for if one candareen only can be saved there is one candareen the more to be distributed in relief. In reverent obedience to their Majesties' exhortations, who so graciously have at heart the welfare of people, We can but repent of Our faults, and examine into Our shortcomings, administering a government which is more than nominal with full sincerity of purpose; and thus, perhaps, Heaven may be moved to send down refreshing rain, and rescue Our people from the "ditches and water channels" (quotation from Mencius.) It is furthermore the duty of all officials, high and low, in the capital or in the provinces, to identify themselves with the unceasing solicitude and unwearying exertions of the Court; they must examine themselves with fear and trembling, and all unite to relieve the distress that now prevails. The starving people are crying out for food, and relief is urgently needed. Let the Board of Revenue again issue Taels 200,000 from the Treasury, and forward it in detachments to Honan and Shansi. Let 16,000 piculs of the grain on its way to Peking be detained at Tientsin, and also sent to these provinces. Let a further grant of one picul of rice *per diem* be issued to the various relief agencies in Peking. Let officers charged with the investigation of crime speedily terminate the cases before them, that inoffensive people may not be allowed to languish in prison. We have lately heard

that drought also prevails in the prefecture of Ho-kien in Chihli. Let Li Hung-chang promptly ascertain to what extent the taxes in this district can be remitted, and let him devise measures of relief, and report the same to Us.

(3) Decrees conferring the following appointments :—Junior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue and Superintendent of the Coinage Department, Lin-shuh 麟書. Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, Che-hoh 志和. Junior Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies, Kw'un-kang 崑岡.

(4) A postscript memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang covering a report from the Taotai of Shanghai who had obtained a year's leave of absence to recover the remains of his father, who died in the year 1861, and ascertain the fate of his step-mother and brother. On arrival at Ili, where his father died, he placed himself in communication with a man from his native place, who told him that he had buried his father with his own hand before the capture of the town by the insurgents, and pointed out to him the place where the remains had been laid. The Taotai succeeded in finding twenty-eight bones, which he placed in a fresh coffin to be borne sorrowfully back to his native place. He learned from the wife of a soldier who had been his step-mother's serving woman, that on the capture of Ili, his step-mother had poisoned herself, and that his brother, who had joined the staff of Ch'ung-hi, late Imperial Agent at Ili, was killed in action on the 10th March, 1866. The Governor-General suggests the propriety of bestowing on the step-mother a mark of Imperial approbation, and a token of pity on the brother who was killed in action. —Granted by rescript.

March 23rd.—(1) (Abstract Memorial.) Sung-kwei, Resident at Lassa, reports the departure of an abbot *(K'an-pu)* from Anterior Tibet 前藏 on a tribute mission to Peking. Rescript :—The *K'an-pu* need not come to Peking. Let the articles of tribute and list accompanying them be forwarded by the Governor-General of Sze-chw'an and the Tartar General.

(2) A decree in answer to a representation from the Court of Censors ordering the provincial authorities to exercise more discrimination in the granting or withholding of bail to parties in appeal suits. This representation has been evoked by the recent action of the authorities in Hupeh, who actually kept the complainant in an appeal suit in custody and allowed bail to the defendants.

(3) Memorial by Censor Hu Yên-kwei on abuses in judicial system. (For decree see *Gazette* of 3rd March.)

(4) Li Ho-nien, Governor-General of the Yellow River, and acting-Governor of Honan, reports that the period of the spring freshets has passed without mishap. The unprecedented cold of the past winter caused the upper waters to freeze, and for more than a month all traffic was suspended, letters having to be forwarded overland by circuitous routes, a necessity that has not arisen for many years. The pressure of the ice in the upper waters caused a rise of one or two feet lower down, but timely precautions were taken, and no accidents occurred. The various river works are reported in good order, but certain miscellaneous repairs will be needed. Debts contracted for last year's repairs are still unpaid, and there will be great difficulty in raising funds, but the memorialist will do his best.

(5) Tso Tsung-t'ang reports a mutiny among some irregular troops at Hwa-p'ing-chw'an in Kansuh, to whom four months' pay was due. The mutiny was checked before any violence or robbery was committed, and the ringleaders were executed after trial by the Governor-General. The General in command, to whom the memorialist gives a good character, is degraded to the rank of colonel, but allowed to retain his command.

March 24th.—(1) A decree in answer to a representation from the Supervising Censor Ts'ui Mu-che, ordering stricter supervision over all classes of official underlings, who, the Censor alleges, are often guilty of corrupt and extortionate practices.

(2) A decree appointing Ch'êng Lan-pin 陳蘭彬 (Minister to the United States, etc.) a Vice-Director of the Imperial Clan Court.)

(3) A memorial from the Governor-General of Yünnan and Kwei-chow, reporting the result of enquiries into a charge of want of supervision brought against an officer in charge of a *lekin* collectorate, whose subordinate had embezzled a portion of the duties levied by his office. The officer, Yih Chao-tung by name, pleaded in extenuation that the embezzlements for which he was responsible occurred during his absence on duty at a branch office under his charge. He had left nine blank duty receipts with his subordinate for use while he was away. On his return the subordinate informed him

that they had all been issued and handed him the amount of the duty which he said had been collected. It was not until the head-office had brought the matter to light that he was aware that a fraud had been committed. The subordinate having confessed his guilt, memorialist will inflict the legal penalty upon him. He considers that the negligence of the superior officer will be adequately punished by a fine of a year's salary.

March 25th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the supervising Censor Kwoh Ts'ung-kü, requesting that the Board entrusted with the direction of the examination of officers recommended for special merit may be allowed discretionary powers in instances where the candidates have, whether from want of means or ignorance of the new regulations, been unable to present themselves for examination within the specified time. In accordance with the Censor's representations permission is granted for the examination of certain officers in this category who have failed to present themselves within the time prescribed.

(2) A memorial from the supervising Censor P'êng She-ch'ang, calling attention to the necessity of adopting measures to secure an efficient water supply in the Northern districts simultaneously with the issue of relief. He begs that the high authorities of the Northern provinces may be instructed to draw up stringent regulations under which operations to this end may be completed within a given time. Thus will the root of the evil be attacked, and better security be afforded for the lives of the people. The memorialist regrets that the decree on this subject issued last September has not been given better effect to. While feeling assured that the high authorities to whom it was particularly addressed have not been wanting in their endeavours to carry out their instructions, it appears to him that in their constant anxiety to relieve the distress that was prominently before them, they have neglected the opportunity that presented itself of combining measures of relief with the equally important duty of securing a proper water supply. It would have been perfectly feasible to have demanded from the recipients of relief a certain amount of labor in return for their maintenance, and works of the nature required might have been carried out without extra cost; thus, as it were, two ends would have been served by one means. No land can do without proper supplies of water, and nowhere is this more true than of the Northern provinces, where land that suffers from inundation is in comparison with that which is liable to drought as two to seven. Of late years the sources of water supply in the provinces of Honan and Shansi have been much neglected, and the result was that when dearth and famine did arrive it was impossible to cope with them. Meteorological conditions cannot be fathomed. Last winter very little snow fell, and in the early spring there was still a lamentable deficiency of moisture. If by any chance a famine should again occur, will the Court, however unsparing in its liberality, be able to prevent dispersion of the people? Instead, then, of meeting famine when it does arrive by relief and remission of taxes simultaneously, why not devise beforehand means for securing to countless generations the fertility afforded by proper supplies of water? The memorialist therefore prays his Majesty again positively to direct the high authorities of the Northern provinces that they must make the repair of existing sources of supply, or the construction of others where they are needed, a first and essential duty. They should select from among the Commissioners or Intendants of Circuit, some one who has distinguished himself in the execution of relief measures or has performed his duties with zeal and attention, and constitute him general supervisor with full power of action. The Department Magistrates and Magistrates should be instructed to select from among the gentry and elders in their respective jurisdictions men of public spirit who are universally trusted, and make them supervisors of the works required. The special requirements of high-lying and low-lying lands should not be lost sight of. In the neighbourhood of hills, springs should be deepened and watercourses cleared out. In the neighbourhood of rivers, canals should be cut, and the water led by them in different directions. Where neither hills nor rivers exist, wells should be dug; or, where these would require to be made so deep as to render the operation costly, let reservoirs be constructed. The memorialist is a native of the South, where in the vicinity of every village a reservoir may be seen to every five or six *mow* of land; and although droughts may occur, an absolute failure of the harvest has never been known. If a similar system be adopted in the North, irrigation will at least be facilitated. To sum up. It is in the power of man by adaptation to make the most of natural advantages, but it is the nature of man to delight in the prospect of accomplished results rather than to take thought for the

initiation of the measures that produce them. Let periodical reports be made by Department Magistrates and Magistrates to the supervisor in chief, and by him, in turn, to the high authorities, who should from time to time report progress to his Majesty requesting rewards for genuine exertion, and, similarly, the correction of dilatoriness or inefficiency. Thus, by a simultaneous exercise of encouragement and correction will men be stimulated to vie with each other in aiding this work, and the spectacle shall be presented of barrenness turned into luxuriance. (For decree see *Gazette* of 6th March.)

March 26th.—The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reports a fall of rain in his district varying from one inch to a-tenth of an inch in different places.

(1) A memorial by Tso Tsung-t'ang reporting the death of Ying-han, military Lieutenant-Governor of Urumtsi. After recording the particulars of his death, and describing his complaint with great minuteness, the memorialist concludes with a lengthy eulogy on the merits of the deceased officer. (For decree see *Gazette* of 13th February.)

(2) Li Hung-chang reports the receipt of a donation of Taels 10,000 from Kün-k'i, Superintendent of Customs at Canton, in aid of the sufferers by famine. He requested memorialist to distribute this amount on his behalf, and begged that a mark of Imperial favor might not be applied for. The memorialist having heard that there were a number of homeless people in Peking, and that the soup kitchens were in need of aid, sent Tls 4,000 to the Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu for distribution, after consultation with the Police Censors. Taels 3,000 have been expended in payment of the cost of transport of grain to Shansi, and a like sum has been sent to Honan for distribution. Notwithstanding the request of the Superintendent that no reward should be applied for on his behalf, it would not be right to keep from the knowledge of His Majesty so munificent a donation.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue determine a distinguished form of reward to be conferred upon him.

March 27th.—(1) A memorial from Yên King-ming, special High Commissioner for famine relief in Shansi, and Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of the same province, requesting that the existing prohibition against the cultivation of the poppy may be enunciated afresh, in order that the food supply of the people may be enriched, and provision made against the scourge of famine. They humbly submit that, in former days, famines were provided against by accumulation of supplies during times of ordinary harvests. Hence arose the system of laying by a third of the yield of each year, by which means, in spite of drought and flood, the people were never reduced to actual suffering or want. Never was such a thing heard of as the cultivation of a crop that was injurious to man, and disseminated its poison through the hamlets and villages. The failure of the harvests, and consequent famine that now prevails in Shansi, may be called a visitation from Heaven, but it is in reality the work of man. Ever since the poppy began to be cultivated on a large scale, the supplies laid by as a provision against times of scarcity have been gradually drawn upon, until at last there was scarcely grain enough in store for half a year's consumption. When, therefore, the people are suddenly confronted with so deadly a famine as the present, they are reduced to a condition of utter helplessness. There are three conditions upon which the people rely for sufficiency of food; weather, productiveness of soil, and human labour. Now, the productiveness of the cultivable area of the province of Shansi, estimated by the memorialists at something over 30,000 *k'ing* (one *k'ing*=15.13 square acres), is at the best limited, and every rood that is devoted to the cultivation of the poppy means a corresponding diminution in the yield of grain. The profits to be gained by the cultivation of the poppy being comparatively large, it frequently happens that the whole of the rich and marshy land is devoted to its growth, and the cereal crops are relegated to the stony and thinner upland soil. In earlier days, before the poppy was grown, foreign opium was never consumed by the substantial farmers and the better class of agricultural labourers, its use was confined solely to the vagrant and vagabond class. Now that the poppy has been brought under cultivation, a taste for opium has been created, and every household has learned to consume it, until the vice prevails in the villages to a greater extent than in towns or centres of trade. The result has been that the better class of agriculturists have become idle and dissipated, and in many instances have been reduced to beggary or have taken to thieving. So much for the question of soil. To turn to the consideration of the labour question: the period at which the sap of the poppy is collected is the husbandman's busiest season. He devotes all his energies to the poppy, and neglects his cereal crop which in consequence deteriorates and becomes worthless.

Hence, the yield being unproductive, and labour diverted to other objects, the people are dependent on the will of Heaven for a moderate harvest at the best, while an unfavorable season reduces them to a condition of prostration and weakness from which no remedy can rescue them.—The memorialists then proceed to explain at great length the geographical conditions of the province, and their bearing upon the agricultural question, and point out the different centres from which the various portions of the province have in former times drawn their supplies of grain. The area embraced by the poppy having increased year by year, it follows that the source of these supplies has diminished proportionately, and the result is now being witnessed. The only way that a recurrence of the present suffering can be prevented is by enunciating afresh the prohibition against the cultivation of the poppy. The practice has now, however, taken such deep root, that it has grown beyond the power of local authorities to check it unaided. The memorialists, after much correspondence with the local authorities, and after careful consideration, have come to the conclusion that the best plan will be issue proclamations enjoining upon the heads of villages, clans, families, and guilds, the duty of exercising a check one upon the other, thus doing away with the necessity of employing official underlings and giving them a handle for extortion and malpractices. The head of each clan will be directed to call upon any member of his clan who cultivates the poppy to root up the plants, and heads of tithings will be called upon to exercise the same authority over the constituents of their respective tithings, and insist upon the land being converted to the cultivation of cereal crops. Any proprietor failing to obey these commands will be reported to the local authorities and brought to justice; those who connive at acts of disobedience will be held liable to punishment; and any magistrates or official underlings who are found surreptitiously levying taxes upon the cultivation of the poppy will be instantly denounced and deprived of office. A proclamation in this sense has already been printed and distributed for general information throughout the province. The memorialists further propose to send members of the literate class from time to time to see that the proclamation is given effect to. (For decree see *Gazette* of March 9th.)

March 28th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reports that the "iron tablet" has arrived.

(1) A Decree. Some time since we despatched the Prince of Chwang and the *bei-lêh* Wang to the Black Dragon Temple to pray for rain. Let the *bei-lêh* Yi-kw'un now be sent in their stead to offer incense and reside there.

(2) A Decree. Shên Pao-chêng memorialises that his malady is beyond recovery, and begs that he may be allowed to vacate his post. We grant him a further congé of three months that he may devote himself to the care of his health. He need not vacate his post. Let Wu Yuan-ping act as Governor-General of the Liang Kiang during this period, and let Lo Fang-ts'i act in the stead of the latter as Governor of Kiangsu.

(3) Li T'ing-hiao 李廷簫 is appointed Police Censor of the northern division of the metropolis.

(4) A decree in answer to a suggestion from the office of Gendarmerie that additional agencies for the relief and accommodation of the refugees from other parts may be opened in Peking, the number at present established being insufficient to supply their wants, as they are daily increasing in number. Authority is granted for the establishment of five additional agencies outside the seven gates of the Chinese city, and the Board of Revenue is directed to supply the 2,000 piculs of grain and Taels 3,000 required for this purpose. Soldiers are to be put on guard at each agency to prevent crowding or disturbance, and certain officials are nominated who are to be in constant attendance.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a series of memorials by Chang P'ei-lun, Adviser to his Majesty, and Reader of the *Han-lin* college, who urges the adoption of precedents afforded by former Emperors in times of national calamity, supporting his exhortations by references of various kinds. In his first memorial he deals with the general principles by which the court should be guided in its administration during these troubled times. First on the list he places the invitation of expressions of opinion from various sources; next, the issue of relief, and, third, the mitigation of punishments. In his second memorial he inculcates the duty of economy in expenditure, commenting on the fact that at the very time that a decree had been issued ordering supplications for rain, a display of fire-works was exhibited within the precincts of the palace. In his third memorial he demonstrates the necessity of encouraging

expressions of opinion from those who are in a position to offer advice, and recommends that the high officers of state be directed to form themselves into a sort of committee to consult as to the best means of meeting the present calamity. In his fourth memorial he comments strongly on the obstructiveness displayed by the Boards in vetoing one after another suggestions for the supply of funds offered by various authorities, intimating that their Majesties are influenced too much by the advice of these Boards. He quotes a decree of the Emperor K'ang Hi, who during a time of drought, when informed by the chief of the Board of Revenue that the whole of the present year's grain in store had been expended, answered that he cared not if the supply for the year after that were expended too, administering the following rebuke to the officer who demurred to the issue of further relief :—" We consider the lives of the people to be of paramount importance ; the issue of the contents of the granaries for their relief is entirely a matter of Imperial prerogative. Who are the Board of Revenue that they should control this matter? If funds from the Imperial exchequer are applied for, the Board veto the request ; if grain is applied for, the Board veto the request. Correspondence passes backwards and forwards, and excuses are made on this side and on that ; meanwhile the people in the afflicted provinces are allowed to die off and disappear. Do ye not perceive that these millions of suffering people are dying, not from dearth, but from the arts and machinations of the Ministers of the Boards ? Suppose the granaries be empty, measures can be devised for procuring further supplies. If the people die they cannot be brought to life again ; if their confidence in Us is destroyed it cannot be recovered. Give heed to the root of the matter, and ask yourselves are the people to be first considered, or is the exchequer to be the first consideration ?" In his fifth and last memorial he inculcates the necessity of judicial reform. In the 9th year of K'ang-Hi, when drought prevailed, high officers were sent by the Emperor to visit the Board of Punishments and ascertain by personal interrogation of the prisoners whether any were wrongfully confined. And again in the 18th year of the same reign, upon a recurrence of drought, a general inspection of the same kind was held in the provinces. The memorialist suggests that similar inspections be instituted now, and that greater attention be paid to judicial investigations, many of which are carried out in a manner that is not calculated to satisfy the ends of justice. (For decree see *Gazette* of 5th March.)

March 29th.—(1) A Decree. The Vice-President Hia T'ung-shan memorialises requesting that funds may be supplied for the opening of wells in the districts in the province of Chihli that have been stricken with drought. The opening of wells for the irrigation of the fields serves as a provision in times of drought, as water can be drawn from them and led over the land. Li Hung-chang has already instructed his subordinates to urge the people to undertake this work. The Vice-President now states that the whole of the country in the Ho-kien prefecture is in need of wells ; that if these be constructed with a lining of bricks in the lower part, and simple earth walls at the top, they will last for several years and can be made at a cost of five or six thousand *cash*. If the upper portion be bricked at a later date they will be in every respect similar to bricked wells. He suggests therefore that a sum of Tls. 40,000 may be supplied for this purpose, which should be converted into *cash ;* thus, at the rate of 5,000 *cash* for each well constructed, 12,000 wells can be made. Let Li Hung-chang at once issue Tls. 40,000 from whatever fund he chooses, and send it to the famine stricken districts in the Ho-kien prefecture to be issued to the people, that they may commence operations immediately. Let the local authorities and gentry carefully superintend its distribution, that peculation on the part of official underlings may be guarded against.

(2) A Decree. Some time since We were commanded by their Majesties the empresses to instruct the officers of the Imperial household to exercise strict economy in the various branches of palace expenditure, and at once to send in an estimate in round numbers of the amount of the economies that could be effected. They now report that for the last few years none of the necessary works or repairs within the palace have been put in hand, nor have any additions been made to the articles now in use, while there has been no lavishness whatever in current expenditure ; it is impossible therefore to effect any retrenchment.—Last year the people in the provinces stricken by famine were reduced to a condition of great distress, and the rains have now again failed in their season. Their Majesties, unwearying in their exertions and unceasing in their solicitude, have twice instructed Us to reduce Our morning and evening meal

to half its ordinary quantity, and have exhorted Us to partake of "lenten" fare. Their Majesties being thus sincere in their commiseration for the sufferings of the people, it naturally behoves the office in question, in reverent obedience to their Majesties' commands, to scrutinise with energy and care the various items of expenditure. We have now perused their memorial, and find that they offer a bare statement to the effect that the headings of expenditure are numerous and complicated, but that if any items can be dispensed with or reduced, it shall be their care from time to time, as occasion admits, to give the matter their attention and take action in the direction indicated. Should the economies thus effected amount to an appreciable sum they will again memorialise. They submit no statement of the various items of expenditure. Let the Comptroller of the Imperial Household at once make accurate and careful enquiry into the items of palace expenditure, and submit for Our inspection a detailed list thereof under each separate heading, without reservation or evasion.

(3) A Decree. Ho Kin-show, Compiler of the *Han-lin* College, submits that in times of dearth reforms should be instituted and self-examination practised, and prays that the high officers of state may be cautioned and reproved. In view of the widespread calamity that has visited the provinces in the vicinity of the capital, and the failure of the rains at their appointed season, We have already issued a decree expressing Our contrition for faults committed, and undertaking to examine into Our shortcomings, in the hope that thereby Heaven might be moved speedily to pour down refreshing rain. Ho King-show now represents that although in consequence of Our youth and inexperience the government is administered by their Majesties the Empresses, and the reins of power are thus held by those in the highest place, the affairs of the nation are conducted through the agency of the Ministers of State. He prays therefore that they may be admonished to be forgetful of self, and oblivious of family ties, and set to work in earnest to amend their faults. At this period, when a succession of seasons of dearth has brought about a famine of such magnitude; with festering misery and want so prominently before our eyes [We must acknowledge], that this calamity is a visitation from Heaven, in consequence of faults and omissions in the administration of Government. The members of the Grand Council, whose duty it is to assist Us in the direction and control of important affairs of state, are most certainly to blame both for their failure in the suggestion of remedies to Us, as well as in their neglect to adopt them on Our behalf. We imagine that no one would presume, while acknowledging this calamity to be a visitation from Heaven, to attribute the shortcomings that provoked it [entirely to Us as] the head of the state. Be this however as it may, at a time like the present, when the calamity is so widely spread and has endured for so long a time, when the Court is so unwearying in its efforts and so unceasing in its solicitude, the Prince and Ministers [who are charged with the control of the affairs of the Empire] in that in the presence of this visitation they have failed to devise any means whatsoever for the rescue of the sufferers, have been guilty of shortcomings for which they cannot easily find an excuse. We command therefore that the Prince of Kung be committed to the Imperial Clan Court for the adjudication of the severest form of penalty, and that the Ministers Pao Yün, Shên Kwei-fên, King Lien and Wang Wên-shao be similarly committed to the Yamên whose business it is, for the adjudication of the severest penalties.

March 30th.—(1) A decree based on a memorial from the supervising Censor Hia Hien-ts'ing. The Imperial heart has been moved to pity at the thought of the numbers that have died from famine in Shansi and Honan, and have been left exposed in the ditches and water-channels. The Governors of these provinces are directed to issue money to the officers engaged in the distribution of relief, for the purpose of burying the corpses that are thus exposed. The leaders of the army in Turkestan are also to take measures for the burial of the bones of those who have died during the campaign, whether they be soldiers or common people. The Metropolitan authorities are likewise directed to afford burial to the numbers of corpses that are now to be seen lying by the side of the roads in the capital. Thus will the Imperial pity be made manifest, and restless spirits find repose.

(2) A decree conferring the following appointments:—Financial Commissioner of Chihli, Hêng-k'i 恒祺. Financial Commissioner of Fuhkien, Li Ming-ché 李明墀. Judicial Commissioner of Fuhkien, Lu She-kieh 盧士杰. Judicial Commissioner of Shansi, Sieh Yun-sheng 薛允升.

(3) A Decree. Let Sun Kwan-shan, Financial Commissioner of Chihli, and Ying-k'i, Financial Commissioner of Shansi, come to the capital to await other employment.

(4) A decree based upon a memorial from Hwang Tsze-fang, Deputy Supervisor of instruction, commenting on the general tone of the official class, who in these times of national calamity, when the Court is exercised day and night with self-examination and self-reform, do not display a becoming reverence, or abstain from the pursuit of pleasure or the gratification of personal comfort. Constant applications are made for leave, and extensions of the same when it has expired, and it is much to be feared that in many instances they are only a pretext for indulgence in idleness and sloth. In future more energy and conscientiousness must be displayed by officers of every grade; levity of conduct or carelessness in the performance of official duties will be punished by prompt dismissal. The same decree refutes a charge of extravagance in palace expenditure, brought by the Deputy Supervisor, and concludes with an order that no eunuchs are to allowed outside the palace grounds except those who may be sent out on business. Any who may be found wandering about the streets, or purchasing curiosities and valuables, are to be severely punished by the officers of the Imperial Household. The Captains-General and Commandants in charge of the palace gates are instructed to enforce the prohibition against the entry of unauthorised persons into the palace grounds; and all workmen and official underlings, whose duty calls them within the precincts of the forbidden city, are to be carefully searched on their entry and exit, that tradesmen and pedlars may be prevented from introducing articles for sale. While such strict economy is being exercised by the Court, it behoves all officials, in the capital and the provinces, to eschew feasting and company, and be rigidly economical in their personal expenditure.

(4) A memorial from Yuan Pao-hêng, special high commissioner for famine relief in Honan, submitting a proposal for the raising of money to meet present wants. Ever since the arrival of the memorialist in the province, he has repeatedly submitted the necessity of borrowing from the various provincial exchequers, as well as from wealthy merchants at a fixed rate of interest, which loans he proposed should be repaid from the land tax of the province. The proposal was referred to the Board of Revenue, who gave their consent, subject to a condition that the necessary funds for repairs to river works, support of the provincial army, and annual subsidy to Peking, should first be set aside. This practically amounts to a refusal, for the revenue from land tax, estimated at Taels 3,000,000, but in reality amounting to no more than Taels 2,000,000 in the best seasons, is barely sufficient to meet the headings of expenditure indicated by the Board. Unless, therefore, the subsidy for Peking, which is the largest item of the three, be remitted for at least ten years, it will be impossible to extricate the province from its financial embarrassments. Money is being rapidly paid out, and must continue to be paid out, while none is coming in. Each day that passes sees an increase of distress. There are at present between five and six million people to be fed, and nothing short of two or three million taels will rescue them from the jaws of death. Money must be got, and the memorialist can think of no other way of getting it but by borrowing. The provincial authorities will, however, be loth to part with their funds unless hopes can be held out of these being repaid within two or three years; nor will wealthy merchants come forward with their money unless they have reasonable security. After much thought, the memorialist has, he thinks, hit upon a plan. It is well known that there is a strong competition between the merchants engaged in the Szech'wan and Hwai-ngan salt trades respectively. In consequence of the cessation of the latter trade during the rebellion, licenses were granted to Szech'wan traders to sell their salt in the Hukwang provinces, which properly belonged to the Hwai-ngan area. Now that the trade of the latter place has been revived, Szech'wan merchants are prohibited from continuing to sell their salt in the provinces above-mentioned. They are, however, naturally unwilling to relinquish so lucrative a business, and the consequence is that smuggling is rife, the Hwai-ngan trade is injured, and the revenue suffers materially. The memorialist now proposes that the prohibition against the sale of Szech'wan salt in the Hukwang portion of the Hwai-ngan area shall be removed, and in lieu thereof double the present *lekin* duty shall be levied on all Szech'wan salt in these provinces. This will lead to one of two results. Either the prohibitive tariff will drive Szech'wan salt out of this market, or, as he thinks most probable, an immense gain to the revenue will be obtained. This increase he proposes to devote to the liquidation

of debts contracted by Honan. With the security afforded by this arrangement, there will be no difficulty in borrowing money for immediate wants. The plan should be tried for a year, and extended for a longer period if it succeeds. When the Honan debt is paid off, a portion of the revenue derived from this source should be applied to the reimbursement of the Hwaingan traders, whose profits have been curtailed.—Referred, by rescript, for the immediate consideration of the Board of Revenue.

March 31st.—(1) A decree referring to an appeal case from Hêh Lung-kiang, in which the appellant declared that his brother, who was said to have hanged himself, met his death by foul play. The case was twice referred to the Military Governor, and, as reported by him, corpse examiners from Moukden had arrived to hold an inquest, but matters were brought to a standstill on account of the obstinate refusal of the relatives of the deceased to consent to the "steaming" process. The Court of Censors now report that one Wang Fang-lien has again appealed, complaining that the Secretary and corpse examiners sent from Moukden to conduct the inquest, in insisting upon the relatives of the deceased giving their written consent to the steaming process, intended, by disintegration of the body, to obliterate all traces of violence used. He declares that when the coffin was opened by the Secretary, the body was not decayed at all. The Military Governor of Kirin is now directed to hear the case; the coffin and parties to the suit are to be removed to the city of Kirin, and the matter carefully and thoroughly gone into. (See *Gazette* of 20th March.)

(2) The following appointment is notified:—Intendant of Salt Revenue, Fuhkien, Wêng Hio-pên 翁學本.

(3) A decree granting permission to Yü Ling-chên 于淩辰, Commissioner of the Office of Transmission, to vacate his post on account of ill-health.

(4) T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Kiangsi, returns thanks for his appointment to the Governorship of Honan, and begs permission to be allowed to come to Peking to have audience.—Granted by rescript.

(5) The same officer reports the arrival of the Annamese tribute mission on their way back to Annam. They expressed themselves profoundly grateful for the generous and liberal treatment they had received at the hands of His Majesty the Emperor, who, they informed the memorialist, had been graciously pleased to grant them an audience, and bestow upon them some complimentary scrolls. His Majesty had also given them an Imperial Letter for the King of Annam, with presents of silks, satins, and other articles. After resting a few days at the provincial capital, they were sent on under escort to their own country.

April 1st.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from a Deputy Supervisor of Instruction referring for the consideration of the Governors of Shansi and Honan a suggestion that inducements should be offered to merchants to import grain into the famine districts. The memorialist proposes that for every hundred piculs of grain imported, a reduction of several tens of taels on the duties leviable on other goods shall be granted, in addition to exemption from *lekin* and other taxes on the grain itself. In compliance with a suggestion from the same memorialist, Li Hung-chang is directed to reopen an investigation into the circumstances of the burning of the relief establishment at Tientsin, with a view to ascertaining the truth of certain charges brought against the officers on duty at the time. The same memorialist points out that the result of the abolition of relief agencies at Tientsin and Pao-ting-fu has been a great influx of refugees into the capital, and suggests the re-establishment of relief agencies outside Peking. The correctness of his views is admitted, and Li Hung-chang is called upon to re-establish the agencies that were abolished. The Governor-General is also directed, in compliance with a third and last suggestion from the memorialist, to see that relief is afforded to all sufferers from the famine in Chihli, which it is stated is not confined to the Ho-kien prefecture as earlier reported.

(2) A Decree. Let Sun Kia-nai, Expectant Reader of the *Han-lin* College, officiate as probationer in the *Yü K'ing Kung*.

(3) The Prince of Kung and members of the Grand Council memorialise to the effect that it was the custom in earlier days to apply every five years for permission to draw up a record in Chinese of military events, two copies being made; one for reference and the other for preservation. In the 4th year of Hien Fêng, when the papers relating to military affairs were very numerous, permission was applied for and granted to reduce the term from five years to three. A period of three years, dating from the 1st day of the 1st moon of the 1st year of Kwang Sü, having now elapsed, it becomes the duty of the memorialists to request that Secretaries of the Grand

Secretariat may be told off to make copies of the records in the Military Archive Office, with instructions to compare the copies carefully with the originals. Two Chinese Secretaries *(Chang-king)* should be deputed to superintend the work, and the Military Archive Office should be called upon to supply the pens, ink and paper required.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) Hü Shang-hwa, Censor of the Chê-kiang circuit, suggests that a portion of the rice at present stored in the Tungchow granaries for issue in part payment of official salaries (俸米), shall be sold at once, and fresh rice purchased with the proceeds, as the present stock is not likely to keep good for any length of time. Having been honored last winter with commands to superintend the transfer to Peking of the grain stored at Tungchow for issue in part payment of official salaries, he found that the aggregate of the spring and autumn stocks was about 40,000 piculs. There are 20,000 piculs at present in store, which will be doubled on the arrival of the spring instalment for the present year, showing that the amount in stock is double that required for issue. Now, the varieties of tribute rice forwarded for storage in the Peking granaries, known as *kêng* or *sien* (dry or unglutinous rice) by reason of its rough kernel, combined with firmness and substance, will keep for a long time, differing in this respect from the variety known as *pai-liang* (husked rice), the tender kernel of which will not stand the same amount of rubbing or bruising, and is apt to turn red or spoil if kept too long. As rice is so much needed at the present moment by the poor people in Peking, and the price of grain is likely to remain high for some time, even if the present year's harvest should promise well, the memorialist considers that it would be better that they should have the use of this *pai-liang* than that it should be allowed to rot in store. It might either be distributed gratuitously, or sold at a reduced rate and the proceeds applied to the purchase of new rice. He has heard that there is a surplus of yellow millet in the Peking granaries; this, in past years, has been used to fatten sheep and cattle. Yellow millet is also liable to deterioration, and he is told that some of the millet supplied to the relief agencies is rotten or spoiled. He suggests therefore that the Board of Revenue would do well to enquire into the matter, and take steps for the disposal of this stock in the same manner as the Tungchow rice. The decree in answer to this memorial has already been published.

April 2nd.—A decree condemning seriatim a number of propositions of the stereotyped nature offered by a Deputy Supervisor of Instruction on the question of famine relief and administrative reform. The memorialist has apparently been more vehement in his denunciations than many that have gone before him, and every suggestion that he makes is set aside as unnecessary or impracticable. He takes exception in the first instance to the raising of funds by foreign loans. The decree answers his objection with the following remarks:—"Setting aside the consideration that the interest on a foreign loan would be an useless drain on the resources of the Imperial exchequer, the length of time that must elapse before negotiations can be completed would render it impossible to obtain the necessary funds with sufficient promptitude to rescue the victims of this wide-spread calamity, who are hovering on the brink of death. There is no need therefore to consider his request." A suggestion that the sufferers by famine should be induced by offers of a supply of seed to migrate to the waste lands on the frontier, is negatived on the ground that it is impossible to supply the seed required, and it would not be fair to let a number of destitute people loose upon the present inhabitants of the district indicated. A fierce attack upon Tung-sün, President of the Board of Revenue, who has persistently negatived all proposals for expenditure in aid of the sufferers, and has obstructed the flow of the Imperial bounty, and should therefore be dismissed from the public service, meets with a stern rebuke. In refusing to endorse certain proposals for the diversion of tribute grain, etc., Tung-sün has been actuated by a desire to give due heed to radical interests, while his decisions have been arrived at after consultation with his colleagues, who have appended their signatures to the memorials submitting their views. Tung-sün has not the power to assume sole responsibility in these matters. The memorialist has been guilty of a serious dereliction of duty in allowing himself to be blinded by prejudice, and in giving credence to idle rumours which he would not be at the pains to verify. He is to be handed over to the Board for the adjudication of a penalty.

(2) A decree of the same nature rebuking a Censor who has ventured to express an opinion on the conduct of the officers of the Imperial Household, who, in answer to a decree ordering economies to be effected in palace expenditure, replied that no retrenchments were possible. It is not within

the province of persons outside the palace to concern themselves with palace matters, of which they should know nothing. The Censor states that, at a recent audience, the Vice-President Kien-fuh was in complete ignorance on a subject upon which his own office had memorialised. It is highly improper that any officer outside the palace should have any knowledge of conversation that takes place at an audience.—Let the Censor be sent for and reprimanded.

(3) Postscript memorial by the Censor Ma Hiang-ju, calling attention to the frequency of burglaries and highway robberies in the immediate vicinity of the capital. These have become so numerous of late that people are afraid to travel along the public highways in broad daylight. Strangers and others coming to the capital from the Lu-kow-k'iao (a bridge on the main road to the west and south about 7 miles from Peking) are afraid to travel without a large escort from the villages around. From this fact alone it is possible to form an estimate of the dangers to which solitary travellers on the less frequented roads are constantly exposed. It is easy to distinguish between beggars and highwaymen. The former are accompanied by their aged parents and their little ones, and cry aloud for food. Their emaciated and sickly condition would in itself deter them from acts of brigandage and burglary. It requires more strength and energy than they possess to burn, pillage and wound, or to despoil the graves of their hidden treasures. The memorialist requests that the office of Gendarmerie and the Governor of Shun-tien may be called upon to post a number of soldiers and runners in different places, with instructions to seize all burglars and highwaymen and inflict summary justice upon them.—Decree already published.

April 3rd.—(Court Circular.) The office of Gendarmerie reports the destruction by fire of 7 *kien* of the office in which drafts of official documents are deposited.

(1) A decree in answer to a memorial presented by the *Han-lin* College, on behalf of a graduate of that institution, calling attention to the frequent pillage by destitute people of shops for the sale of eatables in Peking. The metropolitan authorities are to consider and give effect to the best means for suppressing the evil complained of.

(2 & 3) Decrees ordering a fresh series of intercessory prayers for rain on the 8th inst. A fast is ordered to be held, commencing three days previous to the institution of the services, and the Prince of Ch'un is directed to officiate on behalf of His Majesty.

(4) A decree referring to an objection on the part of the Board of Revenue, lately made public, to sanction the prohibition of distilling operations, as suggested by the Grand Secretary Li Hung-chang. Hwang T'i-fang, Deputy Supervisor of Instruction, had taken exception to the finding of the Board, who, he insinuated, were reluctant to lose the large fees, appropriated by them for "rice money," which the sale of licences for this branch of industry brought in. The Board having been called upon to answer this charge, now explain that their refusal to consent to the cessation of distilling operations arose from a reluctance to throw the thousand and more families to whom this industry gives employment entirely out of work, coupled with a desire to avoid affording unprincipled underlings a handle for extortion and oppression. They accordingly proposed to limit the trade to the present holders of licences. They were in no way influenced by a desire to retain the fees derived from the issue of these licences, a portion of which, they might add, were surrendered to the Grand Secretariat and other offices to defray working expenses. The above explanation being considered satisfactory, the Deputy Supervisor's charges are dismissed.

(5) A decree ordering an immediate enquiry into malpractices in the distribution of relief in the famine districts, with which certain department Magistrates, Magistrates, and others, are charged by a Tutor of the Imperial Academy. One officer is said to have forwarded the whole of a grant of Tls. 3,000, issued for the purchase of grain, to his family in Kiangsu; another to have sold grain, and supplied the sufferers for whose relief it was issued with half the proceeds; others to have allowed their domestics or followers to appropriate portions of the grain or funds that should have been issued to the people.

(6) A decree based on a memorial from the Censor Hü Shang-hwa, who represents that the land adjacent to a temple called the Kio-sheng-sze, in which it has been the custom to offer up prayers for rain, has been appropriated by Mao-lin, Comptroller of the Imperial Household, and his brother Ts'ing-lin, as a burial ground. The "pulse of the Dragon" has thus been interrupted, and supplications for rain have this year been offered in another place, which accounts for their inefficacy. Officers are directed to proceed to the temple in

question, and ascertain whether the facts be as represented.

(7) The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a memorial from Li Hoh-nien, acting Governor of Honan, and Yuan Pao-hêng, special high Commissioner for famine relief in the same province, detailing at great length the measures they have adopted for the administration of relief. They commence by the assertion that agriculture is the only industrial pursuit in the province, and that the taxes, amounting to something over Taels 3,000,000, are all derived from land. Hence it follows that the important essential in famine relief is the preservation of the people from death or dispersion, as everyone so preserved forms an integer in the aggregate, of taxpayers. A system of relief, therefore, which fails to reach all cases of destitution, while in the immediate present it entails loss of life, must in the end affect the Imperial economy. Their endeavour therefore has been to pursue a system that shall secure to the utmost the preservation of human life. After summarising the steps taken by the former Governor, which have already been reported, they go on to state that on their succession to the control of the relief measures, the first difficulty with which they had to contend was insufficiency of means, as has already been submitted in repeated memorials. It became at the same time their duty to organise a basis upon which charity should be dispensed. After careful thought, they decided that it would be right, while attending more particularly to urgent cases of distress, not to neglect those localities where the suffering was only partial, and instructions were issued calling for careful reports as to the actual condition of the various localities, supported by guarantees from the gentry and elders resident in each district. A list of the original number of families in each district, with the number at present remaining, was also called for, and a corps of private individuals for the issue of relief was organised, in addition to the properly constituted staff of authorities, care being taken to exclude all hangers-on of Government offices, and disreputable gentry given to dabbling in public matters. A set of rules, 22 in number, were printed and distributed, that publicity and uniformity might be secured. It has been found impossible, however, owing to want of money and supplies, to adhere rigidly to these rules. The supplies at the disposal of each district did not average more than 2,000 to 3,000 piculs of grain, and Tls. 2,000 to Tls. 3,000 in money, while the applicants for relief amounted on an average to about 100,000 in each district, so that provision could not be made for more than two issues of supplies, each person receiving on either occasion a few *shêng* of grain and a few score of *cash*, hardly enough to support life for a fortnight. Thus the people were soon reduced to their original condition of destitution, and it only remained to issue peremptory orders for their reception into the relief agencies, in order to save them from immediate death from starvation. More relief agencies were opened at a number of places which are enumerated by the memorialists, that the people might be enabled to obtain food within easy distance of their homes. Hereupon the want of supplies immediately made itself felt. One by one the relief agencies originally established reported that their stock was exhausted, until very few remained open. Difficulties were augmented by the unprecedented cold. The Yellow River and Wei River were frozen for more than fifty days, so that neither the tribute rice nor consignments from private merchants could be sent forward, and all communication between districts to the north and south of the great river (Hwang Ho) was suspended, and rescue became for the time impossible. Upon the breaking up of the ice, entreaties for grain and for money came pouring in like rain, moving the memorialists to groans of despair and bitter tears, for they had no answer to give. Overwhelmed with mortification and harassed with perplexity, while the memorialists were regarding each other and wondering what they should do, they were informed that large numbers of those who had escaped being frozen to death on the banks of the river were migrating by thousands daily, travelling in bands of ten on a hundred, supporting their aged and bearing their little ones upon their backs. The numbers that have now reached the provincial capital are too numerous for disposal in the existing relief agencies, and others continue to flock in faster than arrangements can be made for their reception, while it is quite impossible to provide them with funds and send them back to their homes. Meanwhile a constant stream of refugees continues to make its way southwards, and orders have been given to the local authorities to provide subsistence and shelter for them, sending in lists of the numbers that are relieved. A decree having been issued last year calling on all the provincial authorities to make provision for the maintenance of famine refugees, the memorialists have written in

their joint names to the Governors-General or Governors of the provinces of Hukwang, Kiangsu, Anhwei, Chihli, and Shantung, to request them to give effect to this decree and provide for the refugees who are now finding their way into their respective provinces, as the memorialists are unable to invite them to return. They have added that these refugees should be supplied with means to return as soon as sufficient rain shall have fallen, or the autumn harvest have been gathered. They have also invoked the charitable assistance of the gentry and notables in these provinces, and avail themselves of the opportunity now presented to record their appreciation of the spontaneous efforts of certain of the above class whose names they enumerate. As the system of relief pursued in the provincial capital will be carefully scrutitinised and followed by the surrounding districts, particular care has been taken to discriminate between cases of actual and simulated distress, lists being made out of the number of families resident in each section, ward, or division of the city. The refugees have been dealt with separately, relief being afforded to over 100,000 daily, and shelter given to about one-fifth of that number. The local authorities have reported a fall of one or two inches of snow, and hopes are entertained that spring wheat and vegetable seeds may be sown in time in the south-east of the province. Unfortunately the Government are not in a position to provide seed, and none is to be bought. A proclamation has been issued inviting donations or loans of seed from the wealthier classes, and as soon as finances will permit, the provincial government will purchase stocks for issue. The people are now keenly alive to the necessity of increasing the supply of wells for purposes of irrigation, and officers acquainted with the science of agriculture have been told off to go about everywhere and urge them to commence digging wells at once. These officers have been provided with printed charts explanatory of the system of agriculture by the division of the land into squares to facilitate irrigation, which they have been directed to distribute freely. The memorial concludes with an expression of regret that amongst the agents employed there are not a few who are vicious or idle, looking upon the duties entrusted to them as an ordinary task to be executed in a matter of course sort of way; or, much worse, blind to the suffering and misery before them, themselves indulging in peculation and dishonesty or allowing it to be practised unchecked by others. Careful and secret enquiry will be made for such persons, who will be unsparingly denounced upon discovery.—Rescript. The system for the provision of relief herein reported is complete and satisfactory. Let the memorialists supervise its operation with energy and attention. We have retained the regulations for perusal.

April 4th.—(1) A decree appointing Kiling, officer of the Imperial Guards of the first rank, to the post of Chief Comptroller of the Hunting Grounds.

(2) Postscript memorial by **Li Kuen-yi**, Governor-General of the Liang-kwang, reporting the capture and trial of the leaders of an affiliated society in Canton. The men, four in number, were called respectively Liang Ah-kiu, Wu Ah-kwang, Fêng Ah-sho, and Hwang T'êng-si-kwei. Liang Ah-kiu deposed that he and others, some of them not in custody, had founded a society called the "beggar's society," but having picked up one day an iron seal with the three characters *She An T'ang* engraved upon it, they adopted these characters as the style of the brotherhood and discarded the old name. They heated the iron stamp red hot, and burnt a number of impressions upon slips of bamboo, one of which they gave to each member of the society as a secret token of membership. The aim of the society was to extort money, and whenever the person practised upon refused to comply with their demands, they either proceeded to direct acts of violence or awaited an opportunity to do him an injury. They admitted that they had traded in girls and women, and on two occasions had sold them to go abroad; that they had kidnapped girls and women and sold them into prostitution on two occasions; that they had once kidnapped a woman as she was walking along the road and held her to ransom; and, finally, had wounded the police authorities during a successful attempt to rescue one of their fraternity who had been arrested for gambling. Liang Ah-kiu, the promoter of the society, has been summarily executed, and the remaining three reserved for the customary re-hearing. A free pardon has been offered to any members of the society, not the original promoters, who will give up their tokens.

April 5th.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a memorial from Pao-t'ing, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, suggesting a number of measures for the better administration of famine relief. These have already been summarised in a decree of March 21st. He enlarges at great length on the advantage of forcing ownd

the price of grain by persistent importation of foreign grain, which should be imported by the Government, and sold at cost price. If the process is continued long enough it must succeed in the end.

April 6th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial transmitted by the Hau-lin College on behalf of a compiler of that institution. The memorial, like so many that have recently appeared in the *Gazette*, is on the subject of administrative reform, and is answered categorically in the decree. The abuses in connection with the Canton and Foochow Customs have evidently been the object for a pointed attack. A proposal for the transfer of the control of these establishments from independent superintendents to the Governor-General and Governor is negatived in the following terms :—"The Canton Customs establishment was originally under the management of the provincial Government, but in the year 1751 a superintendent was appointed. At the instance of Tso Tsung-t'ang some years ago, the question of restoration of the control to the Governor-General was raised, and Jui-lien, who was Governor-General at Canton at the time, reported, on the matter being referred to him, that there were three obstacles, which rendered transfer inadvisable. A decree was thereupon issued, ordering that the existing system be continued. It is therefore unnecessary to consider the memorialist's application."

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial transmitted by the Board of Punishments on behalf of a second-class Assistant-Secretary, also on the subject of administrative reform and its bearing upon the question of national calamities. The remarks of the memorialist with regard to genuine administration of relief, improvement of the sources of food supply, the enforcement of the prohibitions against opium, the purity of the official career, etc., are, each and all of them, not incapable of application. Of late, all suggestions that have reached Us from officers high or low, have, when practicable, been ordered to be adopted, and it is the common duty of all officials, metropolitan and provincial, to identify themselves with Our endeavours to secure their genuine application. Something more is wanted than nominal obedience, or a compliance that is merely formal. With regard to the Secretary's suggestion that a sum of three or four millions he borrowed from a foreign firm (or firms), We have already pointed out that the measure is attended with drawbacks and inconveniences, and cannot be carried out. His proposal need not therefore be considered. Opium is a source of injury to the people, and is a most abominable thing. Of late the cultivation of the poppy and the diffusion of its poison has increased more and more. Let Governors-General and Governors stringently prohibit its growth, and let it be clearly proclaimed that neglect of the prohibition will meet with certain punishment. The purity of the official career is of the highest importance ; and at a time like the present, when applicants for the purchase of rank are more than usually numerous, officers supplying applicants with the necessary guarantees must be particularly careful in their scrutiny of each person's antecedents. In future the guaranteeing officer will be punished in the event of a person of mean origin fraudulently obtaining rank by purchase. A more active police surveillance is ordered to be maintained in the metropolis, and enquiry is ordered to be made into various abuses suggested by the memorialist.

(3) A series of memorials from Metropolitan officers requesting the prolongation of the period for which the relief agencies in and around Peking were originally opened. There are at present eleven of these establishments, each of which supplies gruel to one or two thousand people daily. (For decree see *Gazette* of March 20th.)

(4) Sung-kwei, Resident at Lassa, reports the receipt of the following communication from the 'Hut'ukht'u in charge of the Tibetan Treasury :—"There are stated seasons for the despatch of an abbot with a complimentary letter and articles of tribute for Peking from Anterior and Ulterior Tibet alternately. In the year 1873, the late Dalai Lama despatched an abbot with a suite of clerics and laity to offer tribute, and in 1868, a similar mission was despatched, which proceeded to Peking by way of Szech'wan. The period having now arrived for the despatch of a fresh mission, it devolves upon Anterior Tibet on this occasion to send forward an abbot and suite with articles of tribute similar to those prepared in 1873, and a complimentary address wishing His Majesty long life and happiness. The articles of tribute having now been reverently prepared, an abbot has been selected to bear them to Peking, accompanied by a suite numbering 40 persons. The secretary, therefore, requests that arrangements may be made for them to proceed by the Szech'wan route." The Resident observes hereupon that the Imperial sanction has been granted on successive occasions to the visit to Peking at stated intervals of a

tribute-bearing mission from Tibet, to which a certain number of commercial agents have been permitted to attach themselves with a view to engaging in barter. Thus has the Imperial courtesy been displayed to the Dalai Lama who comes nearly empty-handed, and goes back richly laden. Officers have been deputed to inspect packages containing tribute, and take note of the contents and weight of each, taking care to re-fasten them securely, and an escort of six men will accompany the mission to Ch'êng-tu, where the Governor-General will make arrangements for their advance to Peking. (For Rescript see *Gazette* of 23rdMarch.)

April 7th.—(1) A Decree. The Censor Yü Shang-hwa having recently asserted that a portion of the land belonging to the Kio-shêng temple, in which there is an altar for sacrifices in connection with supplications for rain, had been appropriated for use as a burial ground by Mao-lin, Comptroller of the Imperial Household, and his brother Ts'ing-lin, We directed Ts'üan-ts'ing and Hü-t'ung to investigate the matter. They now report that the ground appropriated by Mao-lin for a burial place is, in effect, Government property, and although the priest in charge of the temple affirms that the fabric of the altar has not been removed [as was alleged], the structure abuts upon the burial ground, and is much circumscribed thereby. A plan is submitted with the report. Let Ts'üan-ts'ing and Hü-t'ung ascertain how it came to pass that Mao-lin appropriated Government land without authority to do so, and why the priest in charge of the temple permitted this unauthorised appropriation. Ts'ing-lin, Director of the office for the control of the Imperial Parks, in making his way into the temple when the investigation was proceeding, and endeavouring to exculpate himself by specious explanations, has displayed gross ignorance of the obligation he was under to avoid affording opportunity for remark. Let him, as a first step, be handed over to the Board for the infliction of a penalty. (See *Gazette* of 3rd April.)

(2) A Decree. The Imperial Clan Court, Board of Civil Office, and Court of Censors, submit the penalties that they have determined should be inflicted on the members of the Grand Council. As an act of special grace, We ordain that the penalty of dismissal which should be suffered by the Prince of Kung, Pao-yün, Shên Kwei-fêng, King-lien, and Wang Wên-shao, be commuted to deprivation of rank with permission to retain their posts.

(3) A decree handing over to the Board the name of T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, for the determination of a distinguished form of reward, in consideration of a donation of Tls. 12,000 offered by him in aid of the sufferers by famine in the province under his control.

(4) Memorial by Ch'ung-how and others, requesting that a posthumous title may be conferred on the late Manchu General-in-chief Tuh Hing-ah, a sketch of whose career is given. (For Decree see *Gazette* of 10th March.)

(5) Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Hu-kwang, reports a substantial increase in the receipts of the foreign Customs establishment at Hankow, and, at the instance of the Financial Commissioner of Hupeh and the Taotai of Hankow, solicits the bestowal of honorary rewards upon the subordinate officers employed at the Hankow Customs Office. The collection of import and transit duties by the foreign Customs establishment at Hankow, the preventive service in connection therewith, and the conduct of foreign relations, are each and all duties of paramount importance, requiring diligence and care on the part of the subordinate officers entrusted with their performance, if delays and errors are to be avoided. During the period of three years, counting from the month of January, 1872, to the month of January, 1875, the import and transit duties collected at Hankow amounted to Taels 4,400,000 odd, and as the records will testify, on reporting this fact, the memorialist forwarded a list of officials whom he recommended for honorary distinction, which His Majesty was pleased to approve. During the period of three years, counting from the 1st January, 1875, to the 1st January, 1878, which has now elapsed, it is found that the receipts on account of import and transit duties amount to Tls. 5,300,000 odd. The memorialist would submit that since the establishment of the Hankow Customs, the receipts for the successive periods of three years have never, until now, exceeded Tls. 4,000,000 odd. During the period now under revision an excess of Tls. 900,000 has been collected, showing a very great improvement in the revenue. The contributions due to the capital have been forwarded punctually and in full by the officers under the orders of the Taotai, as has been reported on successive occasions; and the flourishing condition of the revenue, as well the promptitude with which the instalments due to Peking have been forwarded, are entirely attributable

to the zeal and watchfulness of the subordinate officials entrusted with the working of the Customs establishment. They have, moreover, displayed a capacity for dealing with international questions with a spirit of fairness and equity, abiding at the same time by treaty and regulations, and thus gaining the approval and good will of Chinese and foreigners alike. It would not be right therefore to suppress all mention of the meritorious services, slight though they may be, of the officers in the Custom House who have specially distinguished themselves, while the secretaries in the same establishment, and the clerks in the memorialist's Yamên, who have displayed diligence and fairness in the conduct of affairs of an international nature, would also appear to have a claim to rewards of an honorary description. A list of the names of these officers is accordingly drawn up for His Majesty's perusal, in the hope that He may be pleased to confer upon them honorary distinctions, in order that zeal may be encouraged.—Granted by rescript.

April 8th.—(Court Circular.) The Prince of Kung and other members of the Grand Council return thanks for the penalty that has been inflicted upon them.

(1) A decree in answer to a representation from the officers in charge of the Imperial granaries, and the Governor of Shun-t'ien, ordering a relief agency to be opened at Chang-kia-wan (the first of the four stages into which the journey from Peking to Tientsin is usually divided), in order to relieve the strain upon the T'ung-chow agencies. 2,000 piculs of rice are to be appropriated from the T'ung-chow granaries for the support of the establishments in that town and at Chang-kia-wan.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from Mu T'u-shan, Military Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar, who reports that two ex-officials condemned to service on the military post roads have made their escape. As there is reason to believe that they have found their way back to Peking, the metropolitan authorities are instructed to keep an active look-out for them.

(3) Li Hung-chang forwards a return of judicial cases that have been disposed of in the province of Chihli during the past three years. In the year 1869 a code of regulations for the more effectual control of litigation were put into operation. During the first period of three years since their enactment more than 200,000 cases, long-standing and recent, were disposed of, and on two occasions since this date returns of cases have been submitted, accompanied by a list of officers recommended for honorary distinction. With so wide an area as that which the province of Chihli embraces, added to the turbulent and domineering temper of its inhabitants, it would not be fair to draw a parallel between the statistics of this and other provinces, while it must also be borne in mind that a succession of bad years has caused a large amount of misery and distress, and augmented the returns of crime, more particularly under the heading of brigandage and theft. This class of criminals has a tendency to implicate as many persons as possible, and it becomes doubly necessary to dispose of cases of this description with promptitude, in order to save many innocent persons much inconvenience and suffering. The memorialist has from time to time issued orders to his subordinates, directing them to adhere faithfully to the regulations above referred to, and to send in a monthly list of outstanding cases, with a return of the number of criminals detained in custody, or under surveillance, awaiting the settlement of pending cases, as well as those who have escaped from justice. He has also deputed trustworthy officers to hold occasional inspections, and has made promptitude or dilatoriness in the settlement of these cases a test of diligence or the reverse on the part of the officials concerned. He has been careful to fix a limit within which all appeal cases referred from Peking, or coming from the lower provincial courts, shall be settled; and in all cases that have come before him personally he has insisted upon being supplied with copious minutes, scrutinising these with minuteness in order to determine whether the decisions given have been just and equitable. He has also given orders that witnesses in any suit shall be carefully protected from molestation by clerks and official underlings, trying by every means that lay in his power to lighten the burdens that litigation so often imposes upon the people. He now begs to report that from the 1st day of the 1st moon of the 1st year of Kwang-sü, to the last day of the past year, a period of 3 years, 73,348 cases of different descriptions were disposed of, leaving only 1,000 odd still to be settled, or less than half the average amount of cases that present themselves each month. The memorial concludes with a list of officers whose exertions are particularly deserving of commendation.

(5) The same officer reports that he has despatched an official to Han-tan-hien to escort the "iron tablet" to Peking. On the 7th March he was honoured with instructions from His Majesty to the following effect:—"Rain in the neighbourhood of the capital

having been exceeding scarce, prayers and supplications have been repeatedly offered, but as yet no fertilising downpour has been vouchsafed. The fields are thirsting for moisture, and We are looking for rain with anxious longing. Let Li Hung-chang at once despatch an officer to Han-tan-hien, reverently to "invite" the tablet in the Lung-shên Temple, and escort it to Peking, there to be placed in the Kwang-ming-tien to await the arrival of fertilising rain." On receipt of these instructions, the memorialist was filled with admiration beyond expression for the solicitude so unceasingly displayed by His Majesty for the welfare of His people. He at once directed an expectant Taotai to proceed to Han-tan and bring back the tablet. Since the month of June last year, the memorialist continues, the northern provinces have suffered from drought, resulting in an almost total failure of the autumn crop, and rendering the sowing of the spring wheat impossible to any extent. On the 8th and 9th of February, and the 6th and 7th March, snow fell to a varying depth of from 1 to 6 inches, insufficient, however, to moisten the upper crust, which has now so long been dry that the spring wheat cannot be sown with any hope of being in time to produce a crop. Numbers have wandered from their homes, and those who have not perished are waiting to get back to their fields, so that rain is earnestly longed for to put an end to all their trouble and misery. The memorialist and his staff of subordinates have again offered up prayers for rain, proceeding on foot to the sacrificial altars; and he has further directed the local authorities to clear off pending cases, and consider to what extent taxes may be remitted, devising at the same time satisfactory measures of relief, that so Heaven may be moved to answer his prayers. Han-tan-hien being over 1,000 *li* from Peking, it will take the officer about twenty-four days to go and return. In the meantime the memorialist has written to the Board of Ceremonies and the Governor of Shun-t'ien to make the usual arrangements for the reception of the tablet. He concludes with the expression of an earnest hope that the desired rain may soon arrive, and pour its blessings on all both far and near. Then will the Imperial heart be solaced, and the farmers' hopes be realised. (For notice of the arrival of the iron tablet, see *Gazette* of 28th March.)

April 9th.—(Court Circular.) A number of high officials present their respects upon their return from the Eastern and Western Mausolea, where they have been to offer the customary sacrifices at the *ts'ing-ming-tsieh*, or the 5th of the 24 solar terms into which the Chinese year is divided.

(1) A Decree. Some time since the officers of the Imperial Household having reported that it was impossible to effect retrenchment in any of the various branches of palace expenditure, omitting, however, to submit a detailed list of the present items of expenditure, We called upon them to repair this omission, and they have now submitted a return of the various headings of expenditure, with a list of monies that have still to be paid. We now command the Grand Secretaries and nine Chief Ministries of State to scrutinise these lists with care, and consider in what particulars economies can be effected. They will report to Us the result of their deliberations.

(2) A Decree. The Censor Chow Shêng-chu suggests for consideration the advisability of continuing the permission for the sale of Szech'wan salt beyond the original area allotted to the establishments of that province, simultaneously with the restoration of the Hwai-ngan trade, with a view to increasing the funds for the relief of distress caused by the famine. He also recommends the distribution of honorary distinctions amongst the salt merchants of Hunan, Kiangsi, Anhwei, and Hupeh, who have come forward with subscriptions in aid of famine relief. Let the Board of Revenue consider the proposals contained in the memorial and postscript memorial of this officer simultaneously with the memorial from Shên Pao-chêng, of March 13th.—(See *Gazette* of 30th March.)

(*Note.*—The arrangements under which the salt *Gabelle* is carried on in China has always been somewhat of a puzzle to the student of the Chinese fiscal system. It may not be therefore out of place to append here a brief explanation of the manner in which the taxes on salt, which form so important an item in the Imperial Revenue, are derived. There are three great salt producing regions in China, known as the 兩淮 (in Kiangsü), the 兩浙 in Chekiang, and the Szech'wan area respectively, which supply the greater portion of the salt that is consumed in the Empire. To each of these regions an area is assigned within which a monopoly of the sale of salt is granted to contractors, who purchase licenses entitling them to sell in different portions of each area. There is no restriction on the quantity of salt produced, but only licensed contractors are allowed to purchase it for

sale. Much jealousy has of late years existed between the Szech'wan and H'wai-ngan monopolists, and the cause of their disagreement has formed the subject of numerous memorials and decrees. In the early years of the T'aiping rebellion, when the navigation of the Yang-tsze was interrupted, the province of Hupeh, which formerly belonged to the area of consumption allotted to the Hwai-ngan region, could no longer be supplied from this source, and an arrangement was accordingly sanctioned under which the salt consumed in that province was allowed to be brought from Szech'wan. Since the year 1868, attempts have been made to resuscitate the Hwai-ngan trade, and as it was found impossible to drive the Szech'wan traders altogether out of Hupeh, a prohibitive tariff was laid on Szech'wan salt, with a view to encouraging the importation of supplies from the eastward again. The authorities of Hupeh, on the other hand, did all in their power to support the Szech'wan trade, which yielded them a large income, and succeeded so well that they managed to shut out the eastern depôts from a demand extending to upwards of 200,000 *yin*—a *yin* averaging about 600 catties—in addition to which a large contraband trade was being carried on. At the present moment the situation is somewhat anomalous, for, while on the one hand the H'wai-ngan region claims the monopoly of the Hupeh area, and the justice of their claim is recognised by the Government, this province continues to be fed from Szech'wan in spite of protest and prohibition. Censor after Censor attacks the question, first from this point and then from that; all of them, it is reasonable to suppose, prompted, and it may be bribed, by merchants interested on the one side or the other, for the monetary interests involved are immense, and the exclusion of either party from the field would involve large numbers in ruin. The Board of Revenue are apparently content to let the question remain in abeyance, so long as the revenue from this source remains unaltered.

(3) Shên Pao-chêng, in a postscript memorial, reports the death of Wu Ta-t'ing, formerly Taotai of Taiwan, who was appointed in the year 1870 to the post of general supervisor of naval drill to the Kiang-nan steam fleet. So important a a post needs a competent officer to fill it, possessed of technical knowledge and experience. The memorialist imagines that he has found such a one in Li Chao-pin 李朝斌, a provincial commander-in-chief, at present stationed at Sung-kiang, whom he requests may be appointed to the post on probation, retaining at the same time his present office.—Rescript: Noted.

April 10th.—(1) A memorial from Ts'ui Mu-che, keeper of the seals, and supervising Censor, advocating the revival of the old system of laying by a proportion of the yield of each year's harvest, as a provision against times of scarcity. A law exists under which each province is bound to maintain a certain number of granaries for the storage of surplus grain 常平倉, capable of supplying each department or district at any given time with a stock of grain varying from several thousand to several tens of thousands of piculs. The funds for the purchase of this grain are to be drawn from the exchequer, and the sale of old stock for the purchase of fresh supplies is entrusted to the local authorities, fraud and peculation being guarded against by stringent and special regulations. By this admirable and perfect system thorough provision is secured, not only against times of dearth or want, but also against unforeseen emergencies. Unfortunately, as time went on, abuses sprung up, until dishonesty and peculation prevailed to a painful degree. At last, in the year 1864, a decree was issued enunciating these regulations afresh, and calling upon the provincial high authorities to restore all granaries, whether under Government auspices or private patronage, that had fallen into disuse or decay, and to see that they were furnished with their proper supplies of grain. Had these instructions been faithfully carried out during the past ten years, tranquillity would have prevailed throughout the Empire, and the plea of devastation and desolation could never have been offered as an excuse for failure in their execution, nor, while each year's harvest was not an utter failure, could there be a reason for empty granaries. Granted even that the public funds would not admit of keeping supplies up to the legal standard, had even half this quantity been kept in stock, every district would have been able to relieve its own distress, and never would it have come to pass that directly this supply was drawn upon operations would be brought to a standstill for want of stock. Of late years, not only have these granaries stood empty, but in many instances they have even fallen into decay or disappeared altogether. To refer now to the application lately made by Li Hoh-nien for a loan from the Kiangnan public granaries. In the answer of the Board of Revenue to this application, they

stated that in the year 1876 there should have been 954,000 piculs of grain stored in the Honan granaries, and they were at a loss to understand why the Governor should neglect to make mention of this amount and, apparently loth to part with his own stock, should apply for assistance from a distance. It being apparent that Li Hoh-nien could not be guilty of such conduct, it stands to reason that the supplies the Board had reason to suppose were in stock did not exist, nor is it likely that any other province is in a better position. The whole of the provincial governments are to blame for this state of things, from Governors-General downwards. It is the duty of Department and District Magistrates in the first instance to report the condition of their granaries, and for their superiors to see that their reports are correct. The famine that has devastated Shansi and Honan has taxed the Imperial exchequer very severely; what would be the result were other provinces to be visited with a like infliction? Is the Government, the memorialist asks, to sit down quietly and tolerate this state of things? Surely not. He concludes, therefore, with a request that a gradual return to the old system may be insisted upon, that the existing granaries may be repaired and set in order, and provincial governments warned that strict adherence to the regulations will be required of them.

(2) A postscript memorial by Li Hoh-nien reporting the receipt of a donation of Tls. 1,000 each from three ladies, wives of officials in the Canton province, all bearing the name of Lung, in aid of the suffering in Honan. The memorialist refers to a standing regulation to the effect that in the event of any person, not an official, whether of the literate or common class, contributing a sum for charitable purposes amounting to Tls. 1,000, the Imperial sanction may be applied for to the erection of a complimentary tablet in honor of such person, upon which shall be inscribed the words—"By Imperial authority. One that delighteth in good works and loveth to dispense charity." The tablet is to be constructed by the individual himself, but the local authorities are to provide him with Tls. 30 for the purpose. These ladies having now each subscribed Tls. 1,000 towards the relief of distress in Honan, thereby evincing a thorough appreciation of the duty of philanthropy, the memorialist prays His Majesty, in accordance with the law above quoted, to bestow upon them individually a complimentary tablet as a mark of Imperial approbation.

(3) In a lengthy memorial the Governor of Kiangsu, Wu Yuan-ping, declares his inability to comply with the request of the Governor of Honan for a loan from the charitable granaries in the province of Kiangsu, for the simple reason that these granaries are empty, it having been found impossible to carry out the standing regulations with respect to the storage of grain since the devastation of the province by rebels.—Rescript: Noted.

April 11th.—(1) A decree appointing Shao Hêng-yü 邵亨豫 Governor of Hunan. P'an-wei is to act provisionally as Governor of Hupeh, from which post the former officer is transferred.

(2) A decree granting permission to Che-kang (one of the co-envoys of the Burlingame mission) to vacate his post as Imperial Agent at K'urun on the ground of ill-health.

(3) The Governor of Kiangsu memorialises, reporting the despatch of the first detachment of junks laden with tribute grain for conveyance to Tientsin by sea. The memorialist has already reported the measures adopted for the forwarding of the first and second quality rice due on account of the 1876 collection from the prefectures of Soochow, Sung-kiang, Ch'ang-chow, Chên-kiang and T'ai-ts'ang, including the rice purchased from the amount collected in money in the two districts of Tan-yang and Kin-t'an in the Chên-kiang prefecture. He has also on different occasions reported the amount of the additional freights with which, in obedience to orders, he had supplied the China Merchants' Company's steamers. The Lieut.-Governor, the Financial Commissioner, and Grain Intendant, now jointly report that they are informed by the Wei-yuan in charge of the grain transport office at Shanghai that, having been instructed to push forward the preparations for the transport of the tribute grain, his first step was to hire vessels, and, having taken bonds from the owners guaranteeing the employment of their vessels on this service, to advance money for their repair. In course of time the rice from different portions of the province arrived by detachments in Shanghai. The whole of the second quality rice was shipped on board the China Merchants' Company's steamers, and the first quality rice was weighed into the junks, as it arrived. The first detachment has now been shipped. It occupies 100 junks, carrying a total lading of 195,920 piculs, in addition to which other vessels have been laden with an extra waste allowance of 15,673

piculs. The freight and porterage have been paid, and the master of each junk has been called upon to sign a receipt for the amount of cargo he carries. Finally, the crews having been inspected and a certificate granted for the arms they carried, the fleet left Shanghai in detachments for Woosung on the 2nd March, there to await a favourable wind before putting out to sea. The Governor has ordered steam gunboat from the Shanghai arsenal to be detailed to convoy the squadron and expedite its movements.

(4) The Governor of Chêkiang similarly reports the despatch of the first detachment of tribute rice from his province, amounting to 158,210 piculs, of which 87,390 were forwarded by steamer.

(5) In a postscript memorial the same officer reports that the Grain Intendant Hu Yü-yün left for Tientsin on the 7th March to await the arrival of the above instalment, stopping at Shanghai for a short time en route. During his absence the prefect of Hang-chow will transact the business connected with this office.

April 12th.—(1) A Decree. Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, reports the suppression of various gangs of local banditti within his province. Some five or six hundred disbanded irregulars having risen in revolt at a place called Tung-kung-k'i, situated at the back of a range of hills known as the Ta-ts'ing-shan, gave themselves up to promiscuous pillage and robbery. Ma-shêng, General of the Ta-t'ung Brigade, sent troops against them, who succeeded, during successive engagements, in capturing the leader of the revolt and many others, all of whom were put to death. A gang of mounted banditti to the south of this range were also exterminated, together with numbers of rebels who had escaped into the mountains. Another rising had also taken place on the borders of the Suh-chow and Ning-wu districts fermented by one Hiung-liu and other disreputable characters, who incited more than two thousand of the starving people to assist in plundering and burning the surrounding villages. The Brigadier-General Koh-ts'ing-t'ai and others went out against them with a body of troops, whereupon they had the audacity to entrench themselves in their mountain fastnesses and offer resistance. Our troops attacked them with vigour, and succeeded in capturing alive Hiung-liu and other leaders of the *émeute*, besides killing several hundred of the rebels. The well-disposed people who had been forced to join the rising were released, upon security being offered for their future good behaviour, and quiet has now been restored. After enumerating the names of certain commissioned and non-commissioned officers upon whom honorary rewards are to be bestowed for gallantry displayed in these operations, the decree concludes with an expression of pity for the unfortunate people whose sufferings have led them to be persuaded into these acts of violence, and the Governor Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan is directed to secure the issue to them of adequate relief, that they may not be obliged to leave their homes and become vagrants.

(2) A decree censuring the officers in charge of the Tsing-yün gate of the palace, who report that the seal for use at this gate has been lost, and requesting that another may be supplied. The Board of Ceremonies is directed to have another one prepared, but the officers responsible for the custody of the former seal are to be handed over to the Board for the adjudication of a penalty, and the official in whose immediate charge it was is to be placed on his trial.

(3) A decree appointing Ying-k'wei, 英奎 Imperial Agent at K'urun (Urga), with brevet rank of Deputy Lieutenant-General. (For decree permitting Che-kang, the late Agent, to vacate this post, see *Gazette* of 11th April.)

(4) Sên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Liang-kiang, represents in a postscript memorial the impossibility of complying with a suggestion of the Board of Revenue that he should be called upon to provide funds for the manufacture of silk fabrics for palace use, which should have been sent forward last year, one of the periods of delivery on a large scale. Having been directed by decree to give effect to the Board's suggestion, he referred the matter to the Financial Commissioner, who reports that the finances at his disposal are at an unprecedentedly low ebb, the receipts for the past year being insufficient even to provide for pay to the Manchu and Chinese troops. The amounts owing on last year's delivery were as follows :—

On the ordinary fabrics supplied on periods of delivery on the large scale ..... Tls.	30,000
Miscellaneous articles.....	5,000
Additional white calico	5,000
For Kansuh satin	3,500
Bright yellow satin.....	16,500
Gauze (estimated value).....	40,000
Wide satin	60,000
Total, Taels...	160,000

Of the above sums, Tls. 30,000 have already been paid on account of the first and second headings, and Tls. 10,000 on account of bright yellow satin, with Tls. 3,500 for Kansuh satin. The balance due on account of bright yellow satin will be made up out of the surplus remaining over the estimates of the late Superintendent of the Imperial manufactory. In addition to the balance still due, there still remains to be executed an order for yellow satin damask from the State Historiographer's Office, the estimates for which have not yet been made out. So large a sum cannot possibly be produced by the Commissioner, who has exhausted every expedient and device for raising funds. In view, however, of the persistent and repeated demands of the Board, which cannot be disregarded, the Commissioner will do his utmost to pay Tls. 10,000 on account, and hopes that he may subsequently be enabled to raise Tls. 20,000 more. This is the utmost he can possibly do, and he begs the Governor-General to represent the condition of his finances to His Majesty. The memorialist, in endorsing the statement of the Commissioner, adds that the support of famine refugees, and the cost of catching locusts have been a severe drain on an already impoverished exchequer. Applications for arrears of pay to the troops are coming in from every quarter, and in undertaking to furnish the sums above-mentioned the Commissioner has done the utmost it is possible for him to do.—Rescript: It is noted.

April 13th.—(1) A Decree. The Board of Civil Office report that they have considered the penalty which should be inflicted on Hwang T'i-fang, Deputy Supervisor of Instruction. Hwang T'i-fang, in wrongfully accusing Tung-sün of depravity and want of principle on the faith of mere rumour devoid of foundation, has exceeded the right of speech to which he is entitled; and it would be only proper that the penalty adjudicated should be inflicted upon him. In consideration, however, of the fact that it is the duty of the Supervisor to lay his views before Us, and that he was actuated by a desire to serve the public interests, as a special act of grace We exercise the Imperial prerogative and decree that the penalty of deprivation of two steps of honorary rank with permission to retain his post, to which he has been adjudicated, shall be remitted. Let all officers whose duty it is continue as heretofore freely to offer suggestions and remarks, but, while they should not remain silent from a desire to gratify a love of peace and quiet, it behoves them, on the other hand, to be careful not to intrude upon the Imperial ear any floating gossip they may pick up. (For decree in answer to the memorial calling forth this rebuke see *Gazette* of 2nd April.)

(2-3) Decrees sanctioning the prolongation of the periods during which the establishments for the issue of gruel in the southern part of the Tartar division of the city of Peking, and the fifteen agencies for the issue of rice at the gates of the Chinese division of the city, were severally to be kept open.

(4) The Board of Ceremonies memorialise with respect to the honors to be conferred in a case of meritorious charity. The Governor of Kiangsu having lately requested that a mark of Imperial favour might be bestowed upon P'êng Tsu-hien, ex-Governor of Shun-t'ien, who had contributed lands towards a fund for affording aid to the indigent members of his clan, the question was referred to the Board, who applied to the Governor of Kiangsu for the necessary particulars and guarantees. These have been furnished after some delay, and the Board now find that the circumstances are as follows:—P'êng Tsu-hien's great great grandfather, who was President of the Board of War, and his great great uncle, a metropolitan graduate, subscribed during the reign of the Emperor Kien-Lung 300 *mow* of land, the rent derived from which was to be devoted to the assistance of any indigent widows, orphans, aged, or sick members of his clan, who were in need of aid, and to supplement expenses on account of funerals, burials, or weddings. This land was called *jun-tsu-t'ien*, or "clan benefit land." In course of time, as the numbers of the clan increased, it was found that the fund was insufficient to meet the object for which it was originally raised, and P'êng Tsu-hien's father, a Grand Secretary, determined to augment the capital. It so happened, however, that at that time the T'aip'ing rebellion was at its height, and he was unable to carry out his intention. His son, therefore, in reverent fulfilment of his father's wishes, has prevailed upon different members of the clan to join with him in subscribing 1,000 *mow* of land as a provision against dearth, and a sum of Tls. 1,000 in money, which has been put out to interest. A public hall for purposes of meeting and discussing matters connected with the clan has been erected, and a code of regulations has been drawn up on the basis of those promulgated by Fan Chung-yên, a noted scholar and functionary of the Sung dynasty. A few of the older and most respectable members of the clan have been constituted

trustees for the distribution of the fund, the surplus of which, after providing for the objects already enumerated, is to go towards the establishment of free schools for the education of sons of the more indigent members, in which a course of education is to be pursued that will inculcate principles of propriety and magnanimity. For those who cannot afford to purchase a burial ground a free cemetery is provided wherein their dead may repose in peace. Fearing lest, in course of years, the regulations now in force would fall into disuse, and the fund would thus fail to meet the objects for which it was organised, P'êng Tsu-hien requested that the matter might be brought to the notice of His Majesty, and a record of the objects of the institution be thus established. The Board, after searching the records, find that no regulations exist precisely applicable to the present case, but they quote a similar instance in which the donor was presented with an Imperial tablet as a mark of approbation and encouragement. Without venturing, in the absence of law or regulation, to determine the precise form of reward that should be conferred on P'êng Tsu-hien, they beg to draw His Majesty's attention to the precedent above quoted. (Decree already issued.)

April 14th.—(Court Circular) Hwang T'i-fang returns thanks for the remission of the penalties to which he had rendered himself liable. (See yesterday's *Gazette*).

(1) A memorial from the Comptrollers of the Imperial Household on the subject of economy in palace expenditure. On the 9th March the office had the honor to receive a message from Their Majesties the Empresses ordering that thenceforward the morning and evening meal be reduced to half its ordinary quantity. Again, on the 19th March, the Grand Secretariat forwarded copy of a decree from Their Majesties to the effect that in view of the suffering and misery that the people of Shansi and Honan were undergoing, causing them to desert their homes and wander elsewhere in search of food, those in high places should not endure the slightest approach to extravagance or waste. The Comptrollers of the Imperial Household were therefore to direct their secretaries of department to exercise rigid economy in palace expenditure, and submit estimates of the probable amount of the retrenchments that could be effected, remembering that every fraction of superfluous expenditure that could be dispensed with would enrich by that amount the funds to be distributed in relief. On the same day a further decree was received from Their Majesties commanding that from that date the use of flesh should be discontinued, and only vegetable food partaken of until rain had fallen. The spectacle of reverent [submission to the will of] Heaven and pity for the sufferings of the people presented by Their Majesties the Empresses and Emperor, who carry rectification of self even to the exercise of bodily abasement, will not fail to call forth the respect and gratitude of each one of Their Majesty's servants and subjects, whose manifest duty it will be to identify themselves with the sacred compassion, and strive to exercise economy and care, in the hope that Heaven may be moved to pour down grateful rain. In obedience to command, the memorialists instructed their secretaries of department reverently to scrutinise the various items of palace expenditure, and they now find that these have hitherto been in accordance with law and regulation. Of late years, owing to the impoverishment of the Imperial exchequer in consequence of the continuance of military operations in the New Dominion, none of the necessary repairs within the palace have been executed, nor has a single addition been made to the articles now in use. This in itself was dictated by imperative necessity, and the hardness of the times has been so constantly borne in mind that there has not been the slightest extravagance. The various meals served up to Their Majesties each day have been reverently prepared in strict accordance with law and regulation; but now that Their Majesties are pleased to order the discontinuance of meat diet, a saving of from Tls. 30 to Tls. 40 per diem can be effected. The meals furnished to other inmates of the palace (? concubines of the late Emperor and his father), are served according to regulation, and being by no means extensive are incapable of further reduction. Beyond this there really remains nothing upon which economies can be effected. Inasmuch, however, as the requirements of the Imperial household are numerous and varied, if from time to time it is found possible to reduce or dispense with any items it shall not fail to be done, and as soon as the economies thus effected amount to an appreciable sum the memorialists will again report. (For decree see *Gazette* of 29th March).

(2) Li P'ei-king, Governor of Kweichow, in a postscript memorial, reports the result of an investigation into certain charges of tyranny and extortion brought against a captain in the army, Liu Hiung-jui by name. This officer, who had been

promoted to his present rank for services in connection with the organisation and command of a company of militia, was charged in the first place with extorting a sum of Tls 40 from the residents of his native town for the repair of a theatrical stage in the temple to the tutelary deity. The fact that the money was extorted is established, but it was also found that the whole of it was devoted to the object for which it had been raised. Subsequent to this, the same officer was amusing himself one day with a display of "dragon lamps" in his garden. A soldier who was passing by looked in, and remarked that the display was a poor one, whereupon Liu Hiung-jui, displeased at his criticism, seized him and began to beat and abuse him, insisting upon his performing the *K'o-t'ow* in token of apology. This the soldier stoutly refused to do, and Liu Hiung-jui then unloosed his girdle, bound the soldier's hands, and, seizing a bill-hook that was lying handy, hacked away at the soldier's arms. Some passers-by who saw the occurrence, remonstrated and begged the captain to let the man go. He refused to do so, whereupon they ran to the Prefect's Yamên and laid information against him. Runners were then sent to let the man go, and arrest the captain, who was put on his trial. The circumstances here narrated occurred so far back as February, 1874, but owing to a difficulty in getting the witnesses together the hearing of the case has had to be frequently postponed. The prisoner, when he was eventually brought to trial, admitted his guilt, and nothing remained but to pass sentence upon him. This, under ordinary circumstances, would have been banishment for 3 years with 100 blows, but as the offence was committed prior to the Act of Grace of December, 1874, the penalty is remitted. The charge of extortion was too trivial to be entertained.

April 15th.—(1-2) Decrees ordering a renewed succession of prayers for rain to be held on the 18th instant, and allotting to the princes and other high officers of State the different temples at which they are to burn incense.

(3) A decree announcing the following appointments and transfers :—President of the Board of Punishments, Ts'üan-tsing 全慶 (late President of the Court of Censors.) President of the Court of Censors, Ngên-ch'êng 承恩 (late Vice-President Board of Civil Office.) Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office, Ch'ung-how 崇厚 (transferred from the Board of War.) Ch'êng-lin 成林 to act during his absence. Senior Vice-President of the Board of War, Kw'un-kang 崑岡 (transferred from the Vice-Presidentship of the Board of Ceremonies, to which he was appointed on the 22nd March. Junior Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies, Sung Shên 松森.

(4) A Decree. Yesterday, when interviewing Tsao-pao, President of the Board of Punishments, We observed that he was weak and depressed, and it is to be feared that he is not in a condition to give that complete attention to the onerous duties of his office that these require. Let him therefore vacate the Presidentship of the Board of Punishments. He will retain the Lieutenant-Generalship of the Mongolian division of the Plain Red Banner.

(5) A memorial from the Governor-General of Min-chêh, submitting an application from an aged widow for permission to commute by a monetary payment a sentence of banishment into military servitude that has been passed upon her only son, for employing a substitute at the provincial examination. The woman offers Tls. 10,000, and as precedents have already been afforded for the commutation of penalties for a like offence, the memorialist urges that the application may be sanctioned. They are sorely in need of money at Foochow. Floods and rains have injured the river embankments to an extent that will necessitate costly repairs, and great expense has been gone to in the purchase of a foreign dredger, the construction of vessels, &c.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

April 16th.—(1-2) Decrees announcing the following appointments :—Lieutenant-General of the Manchu division of the plain yellow Banner, Ngên-lin 恩麟. Lieutenant-General of the *Han Kün* division of the same Banner, Tê-fuh 德福. Intendant of the T'ung-shang circuit in Shênsi, Sün Lwan-wei 尋鑾煒.

(3) The Court of Censors memorialise forwarding an appeal by one Wang Fang-lien, holding brevet rank as "Probationer" of the Han-lin College, who petitions as follows :—"I come from Hu-lan-t'ing in the Heh-lung-kiang province. My uncle King-shun was defrauded of his money and done to death by one Ts'ui Chên-fuh with the assistance of a petty official called T'o-shan, and it was given out that he committed suicide

by hanging himself. King-tien, another of my uncles, having appealed to the Court of Censors in 1875, a second inquest was ordered to be held. On this occasion the sub-prefect who presided was bribed with 4,000 *cash*, and a false verdict was again returned. My uncle appealed a second time, and as before was sent back to be present at a fresh inquest. This time, a Secretary from Shêng-king called Si-chang was sent to hold the inquest. He came to my house and opened the coffin. The flesh on the corpse had not decayed, and after rubbing the body with paper, and washing it, the skin was restored to its normal condition, when livid spots were to be seen on the lower part of the abdomen; there were no marks round the neck to indicate death by strangulation. The Secretary refused to proceed further with the inspection and insisted on the relatives of the deceased signing an authorisation for the application of the "steaming" test. The Secretary's reason for acting in this manner is perfectly clear. He had spent a month previous to the inquest with the sub-prefect who conducted the first enquiry, and who is a connection of his own. Should a finding be now entered different from that reported in the first instance by the sub-Prefect, he would get into trouble; there is no doubt therefore that an understanding has been come to between the two. The corpse examiners also have been suborned by the parties who compassed my uncle's death, and there is no hope of being able to get justice done. I am, therefore, constrained to lodge this appeal, and pray for redress. The Military Governor of Kirin, Ming-an, is one who loves the people as his children, and if my case may be brought before him, I will be willing to take the coffin to Kirin at my own expense. I humbly pray, therefore, that your honourable Court will apply to His Majesty for the necessary permission." (For decree see *Gazette* of 31st March.)

(4) Postscript memorial by Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Szech'wan. Some time since he received instructions to supply the province of Shansi with Tls. 60,000 on loan. This amount has already been forwarded as earlier reported. He has now received a private letter from Yên King-ming, special commissioner for famine relief in that province, appealing earnestly for further aid, and drawing a picture of the desolation and misery that prevailed which stirred the hearts of memorialist and his subordinates. In view of the urgency of the circumstances, memorialist has felt it his duty to appropriate a further sum of Tls. 50,000 from the provincial treasury, to which he has added a personal subscription of Tls. 2,000, the Lieutenant-Governor Tls. 5,000, and the Financial Commissioner and Salt Intendant together Tls. 2,000, besides subscriptions from other officials amounting in all to Tls. 1,600, making a grand total of Tls. 60,600, which was forwarded to Shansi on the 22nd February last.—Rescript: Let the Board take note.

April 17th.—(1) A Decree. Liu Hai-ngao, compiler of the *Han-lin* College, and others, request that orders may be given for the temporary levy of an additional *lekin* on Hwai-ngan and Szech'wan salt to be applied to famine relief. Let the Board of Revenue consider their memorial simultaneously with those of Shêu Pao-chêng and Chow Shêng-chu.

(2) A decree appointing Tsai-ling 載齡 Director General of the Mongolian department of the Veritable Record Office.

(3) A decree lamenting the continuance of the distress in the provinces of Honan and Shansi, which still remains unabated, while no reports have arrived of rain having fallen in any quantity. The provinces of Kiangsu, Anhwei, Kiangsi, Chêkiang, Fuhkien, Hupeh, Hunan, Shantung, Szech'wan and Kwangtung are each immediately to provide some tens of thousands of taels, which are to be forwarded to the famine provinces without delay.

(4) The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a memorial from Hwang T'i-fang, Deputy Supervisor of Instruction, which has already been summarised in a decree of the 2nd April, and his attack upon Tung-sün, President of the Board of Revenue, severely censured. He divides his subject into numerous headings, commencing with an exposition of his views on the question of foreign loans in the following terms:—During the past year the metropolitan and provincial authorities have exhausted every device; voluntary contributions and exhortations to charity have been pushed to their utmost limit, and all that is now obtainable in the way of funds are miscellaneous driblets of no material advantage, or the execution of schemes the maturing of which will take too long to meet the urgency of present needs. While plans are thus being turned over, and assistance delayed, the dying are already dead, and brewing tumult has burst into activity. To obtain the large sums that are immediately required, loans must be contracted with foreign merchants,

from whom five to six million (taels?) can be procured, with which foreign rice should be purchased. If telegraphic instructions were sent from Shanghai to foreign countries to purchase and send forward grain or rice of any description, it could be laid down in Shanghai in two months, and at once distributed in the provinces of Shansi, Honan, and Chihli. If it be argued that the magnitude of the amounts suggests apprehensions as to the possibility of repayment, it may be asked what, if brigandage or revolt arise and military operations are once set in motion, will be the outlay in a single year? In ancient days a precedent was afforded for contracting foreign loans; Ts'in borrowed from Tsin, and Lu from Ts'i; and in the straits to which the Government is now reduced there is no alternative but to have recourse to this method. The supervisor next attacks the question of distilling. He estimates the amount of grain yearly consumed in the production of spirits within the province of Chihli alone at from five to six million piculs. The furnaces employed are as large as an ordinary room, and the volumes of smoke they emit can be seen for miles, and appear at a distance as if they proceeded from the funnel of a steamer. The Board of Revenue have negatived the suggestion for the temporary prohibition of this industry, as submitted by Li Hung-chang; and why? simply because they will thereby lose some Tls. 30,000 "subsistence money" that they have hitherto derived from the sale of licences for this manufacture. The staff of officers employed by this particular Board is comparatively large, and surely the small amount which would be realised by each individual from the distribution of this sum is insufficient to warrant its retention at the expense of the people at large. He then discusses in turn various measures for the better provision of relief; urges the necessity of affording greater facilities for expression of opinion on the part of subordinate officers, who, from their immediate contact with the people, are often able to give more sound advice than those who are higher in the official scale; and the advisability of granting more frequent audiences to civil authorities, who of late have often been excluded from the presence by the number of military officials that are received, men for the most part devoid of any experience beyond the narrow sphere of their official duties, in whom an arrogant and overbearing spirit is fostered by the honor that is thus conferred upon them. He then makes the furious onslaught upon Tung-sün, President of the Board of Revenue, whom he stigmatises as vicious and devoid of principle, a man who during the past year has persistently negatived every suggestion connected with famine relief, and thus checked the flow of the Imperial bounty, ignorant apparently of the fact that the "pulse of the state" and the essence of good government consist in the maintenance and preservation of the people. He negatives appropriations of tribute grain because, forsooth, he must have regard for "radical interests"; he negatives the issue of grain for sale at reduced rates, the very measure that should be adopted in the interests of the metropolitan population for whose welfare he professes such solicitude. The character of the man in other respects is plainly evident from his refusal, in his grasping avarice, to acquiesce in the cessation of distilling operations. The head of the Board of Revenue, the comptroller of the finances of the Empire, is unable in a time of dearth like this, when the Imperial heart is exercised day and night, to offer a single remark or devise a single plan. Surely he cannot escape from the penalties attaching to incompetence. Add to this a covetous and despicable spirit, a heart full of deceit and fraud, calling forth the execration of his colleagues in the Tsung-li Yamên and the curses of the entire nation. Can such a man be entrusted with the control of affairs of the State or the welfare of its people? The memorialist earnestly hopes that His Majesty will cut short his official career. The memorial concludes with a criticism on the laxity of the judicial system illustrated by several examples. (For decrees see *Gazettes* of 2nd and 13th April.)

April 18th.—(1) A decree in answer to a suggestion from the Censor Ts'ao Ping-che, requesting that the agencies for the issue of rice gruel within the Tartar city of Peking may be removed to places outside the city walls. Care should of course be taken to discriminate between the really indigent and bad characters who are sure to be found amongst the thousands that apply daily for relief, and any charitable persons wishing hereafter to establish agencies of this description must place them without the city walls, but the removal of those already in existence involves too great and sudden changes to warrant the step being taken.

(2) A Decree. The Censor Ts'ao Ping-che represents that the fall of rain in the southern provinces has been excessive, and begs that attention may be directed towards

provision against pending calamity. When has such a thing before been known as universal desolation from floods and drought? It is the duty of all provincial high authorities in ordinary times to devise and plan measures of precaution, that when calamity does arise there may be provinsion to meet it. If, as T'sao Ping-che declares, in the provinces of Kiangsu, Chekiang, Kiangsi, Fuhkien and Kwangtung the frosts and snows of Winter have been followed by incessant rain for days in succession, insomuch that agricultural operations could not be carried on at their proper season, and seed rotted in the ground, then it is greatly to be feared that the harvest will be a bad one, and the people will look forward with anxiety to the distress that awaits them. Let the provincial high authorities concerned carefully investigate the condition of the various districts under their charge, and make timely provision for threatening distress. Inspection should be held of the stores of grain in hand, and where these are deficient, monies should be appropriated for the purchase of further supplies. Their subordinates must be strictly enjoined to take steps duly to secure the object in view, and bare statements or nominal compliance must in no wise be accepted.

(3) A decree of the stereotyped nature, on purity of official administration.

(4) A memorial by Kiang Yuan-tsieh, secretary in the office of registration for military stores—a sub-department of the Board of War—and second class assistant secretary on probation, who submits at great length his views on different subjects, which have already been noticed in a decree. The chief topic of interest upon which he touches is that of foreign loans. He states that there are more than ten million sufferers from want in the four provinces of Shansi, Honan, Shênsi, and Chihli, who have been reduced to such extremities that they feed on dead bodies, or, even worse, eat one another's children. The recital of such horrors makes one shudder with disgust. To meet misery of such magnitude large funds are required, and local resources being exhausted, the memorialist begs to propose that three or four millions of taels in foreign currency be borrowed from foreigners, to be applied to the purchase of any grain fit for consumption in the northern provinces, which should be shipped by steamer to Chefoo and Tientsin for transmission inland. Should there not be sufficient grain in the South or the islands to the South, negotiations might be entered into with foreign and native merchants for the purchase of supplies from Manila, Lew-chew, Japan, or Corea. Now that **militar**y operations are at an end, no apprehensions need be entertained as to the difficulty of repayment of any loans, however large; the land tax can well be appropriated to the payment of all such by instalment. (For decree see *Gazette* of 6th April.)

April 19th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-tien reports a rainfall of two inches and upwards of saturation. Simêng-k'o-si-k'o has tendered his testamentary memorial.

(1) A decree remitting the penalties which Li Hung-chang has requested may be inflicted upon himself for his inability to combat successfully the suffering and want in the Ho-kien and other prefectures of his province. The Governor-General has been most zealous and energetic in rendering assistance to Shansi and Honan, and in the face of the present calamity, with festering want so prominently before them, it only remains for the Sovereign and his Ministers mutually to examine into their shortcomings with reverence and fear, and to hope that by amendment of their ways and the cultivation of virtue, the present calamity may be taken away and peace given unto the people. Let Li Hung-chang, then, identify himself with the unceasing care and solicitude displayed by Us, and put forth all his energies in the devising and execution of measures that shall meet actual suffering in a complete and satisfactory manner, and so show himself worthy of the confidence that has been reposed in him. As a special act of grace, We command that the penalties that Li Hung-chang has requested may be inflicted upon himself shall be remitted.

(2) A decree expressing the Imperial regrets on receipt of intelligence of the death of Si-mêng-k'o-si-k'o, Deputy Lieutenant-General of the *Han-kün* division of the plain white banner corps, who rose from the rank of a common soldier to his present position, and has on many occasions distinguished himself on the field of battle. The customary honors are to be paid him, and all official penalties recorded against his name are to be remitted.

(3) A decree conferring the appointment of Lieutenant-General, that has fallen vacant through the death of the above officer, upon Tê-fuh 德福 (transferred from the yellow banner corps to which he was appointed two days previously.) The post vacated by the former is conferred upon Che-hoh 志和.

(4) A Decree. Yung-hü, Assistant Chamberlain, has repeatedly applied for leave, and shown negligence and idleness in the performance of his official duties. We command that he vacate this office, and that a fine of three years' salary be inflicted upon him.

(5) Postscript memorial by Ho-king, Governor-General of Min-chêh, reporting on the condition of the province of Fuhkien. Since the commencement of the year the province has been visited by a succession of steady and heavy rains, with hardly a day's intermission. When spring came on and the snows in the region drained by the upper waters of the rivers began to melt, there was a sudden and dangerous rise lower down, which threatened to cause disastrous floods. Fortunately the river channels were clear, and the pressure gradually subsided. Officers were sent to Kiangsi and Chêkiang to get down rice with a view to lowering the price of grain, which was very high; 28,000 piculs have been obtained, and a slight diminution in the market rate has been effected, but prices are still far above the average, and a steady import will be required to affect them to any extent. One disastrous effect of the rainy weather has been the stoppage of the salt trade. While there is no sun, evaporation in the pans cannot go on, and every day that the rain continues adds to the distress of producers and consumers. One class that is seriously affected by the failure of the salt supply are the fishermen, who depend largely upon it for curing their fish. When they can get neither salt to cure, nor sun to dry the fish that they bring in, their trade is gone, and they will probably turn pirates for want of something better to do. The tea crop is likely to suffer materially; as the young shoots are injured by the continued rain. The hills and valleys in the four prefectures of Yên-p'ing, Kien-ning, Ting-chow, and Shao-wu, up the river, are covered with the shrub, and the picking of the leaves affords employment to over ten thousand indigent people. If the market fails, they will all come down to Foochow in search of food, and, if they cannot get it, will probably rise in revolt. Thus has the memorialist to contend, not only with the elements, but also with the victims of their ravages, a task that will tax his energies to the utmost. He hopes, however, by fasting and self-examination, coupled with vigilance in the execution of provisionary measures, to secure quiet amongst the people, and relieve the Imperial anxiety.

April 20th.—(1) A decree ordering the dismissal of two District Magistrates in Chihli. One, for laxity in the supervision of relief measures whereby his underlings were enabled falsely to return certain households as in need of relief, and to embezzle a portion of the funds allotted to them. The other, for maltreatment of appellants against the extortion of his underlings, and continued acts of oppression. They are to be placed on their trial with the underlings implicated, and the originator of the false return of households in need of relief is to be summarily executed, irrespective of the amount obtained by the fraud.

(2) A memorial by the Board of Revenue in answer to a charge of the Supervisor Hwan T'i-fang, who accuses them of having withheld their consent to the cessation of distilling operations, because they would thereby lose a large amount of "subsistence money." They explain that in the year 1853, at the recommendation of the Board, licenses were granted to distillers of spirits in the province of Chihli, and the system has worked well for twenty years and more. Were distilleries suddenly to be put a stop to, not only would over a thousand establishments be thrown out of employment, but, in all probability, would be subjected to extortion and annoyance from preventive officers; so that, before enjoying the benefits of a reduced market, they would have to lose their means of livelihood and be subjected to tyranny and extortion. While admitting, therefore, the fact that distilleries are a drain upon the grain supply, the Board considered that it would be more just to proceed gradually, and proposed to restrict the issue of licences to those already in possession of them. As some ten or more establishments close every year, if no fresh licences are given out, the numbers will soon be reduced. By this compromise the Board considered they had to a certain extent met the views of Li Hung-chang and the Censor Hu-p'in. Stupid and incompetent as the Board may be, they could not carry their stupidity to the extent of being actuated by a desire to retain the "subsistence money," with which Hwang T'i-fang credits them. They beg to offer an explanation of the origin of this so-called "subsistence money" (飯銀). In the year 1853, the license fee for each establishment was fixed at Tls. 60, which was paid into the nearest Magistracy, and forwarded to Peking at the end of the year. Licenses could also be procured direct from the Board. In the year 1860 an alteration was sanctioned, under which

all licenses were to be obtained direct from the Board, when the fees amounted in all to something over Tls. 10,000, which were at different times allotted to the office of the Imperial Household, the Granaries, the coinage department, &c., &c., for payments on account of wages and food. Careful accounts of the manner in which these sums were distributed are on record, and can be referred to in verification of the statements of the Board. In 1862 a tax of Tls. 32 was levied on each shop, which brought in an annual revenue of from twenty to thirty thousand taels, and, with the Imperial sanction, this sum was temporarily used to supplement deficiencies in the fund for payment of subsistence money and wages referred to above. They repeat, in conclusion, that they were actuated in their decision solely from a wish to avoid throwing so many people suddenly out of employment, and in no wise from a reluctance to part with the "subsistence money." (For decree see *Gazette* of 3rd April.)

April 21st.—The greater portion of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a long and uninteresting memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor General of Szech'wan, describing with tedious minuteness a series of engagements with local insurgents at, and in the neighbourhnod of, Lo-kiang Hien, resulting in the complete extermination of the latter.

There are no other documents of importance.

April 22nd.—(Court Circular). The Governor of Shun-t'ien reports a fall of rain in the capital, to the extent of 4 inches and upwards of saturation.

(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang requesting permission to be allowed to decline the honor that has lately been conferred upon him. Now that peace and order have been restored upon the frontier, it is right that this high officer should be endued with the highest marks of Imperial favour, in order to manifest Our appreciation of his many acts of gallantry. In disclaiming all merit for the services he has done, Tso Tsung-t'ang has displayed a proper feeling of single-minded sincerity, but in exercising Our undoubted right to reward his merits by the bestowal of a patent of nobility, We have followed the dictates of propriety. Let him then strive to repay Our favours [by a continuance of his exertions], and no longer decline the honour bestowed upon him.

(2) A decree conferring the following appointment: Sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, Yi Ts'ing 奕䜣 with rank of Vice-president of the Board of Ceremonies.

(3) A decree ordering a series of thanksgiving services at the various State temples for the rain that was vouchsafed to the capital on the 15th and 18th inst. The Prince of Tun is to officiate on behalf of His Majesty.

(4) Postscript memorial from Kin-shun, Military Governor of Ili, forwarding a representation from Lung Tê-shêng, an expectant commander-in-chief in charge of memorialist's mounted body guard, to the following effect:—"My original name was K'in, my father's designation being Ch'eng-k'un, and my mother's maiden name Ngon-yang. Her elder sister, my aunt, was married to a man called Lung, my aunt had many children, but none of them survived, and she longed earnestly for a son. As my parents had two sons, my brother and myself, my aunt besought them with tears to allow her to adopt one of us, and my parents consented to give me to them on the understanding that if they afterwards had a son, I was to be returned. During a long military career I have been honorably mentioned on several occasions and promoted to my present rank. Last year I received two letters from my paternal uncles informing me that my father had long since died, and that my brother had now followed him, leaving no one to perform the customary sacrificial rites. The Lung family having now two sons and the K'in family being extinct with the exception of myself, they called upon me to return at once, in order to prolong the succession and minister to my ancestry. This intelligence has greatly affected me, and I feel compelled piteously to entreat the Governor to memorialise His Majesty on my behalf, and obtain permission for me to return, that pure and proper sacrifices may be offered to the *manes* of my ancestry." Referred to the Board of War.

April 23rd.—A decree in answer to a memorial from the officer in charge of the Western Mausolea, representing that the troops there stationed are in urgent want of supplies. The Governor of Shantung is directed to forward at once the 6,900 piculs due by him on last years's contribution, and Ch'ung-how is called upon to send on as soon as possible the amount for the present year, which, it has been arranged, is to be supplied from Fêng-t'ien instead of from Shantung.

(2) A Decree. The Court of Censors memorialise that a cashiered district magistrate from Kiangsu, Ts'êng Shao-hün by name, has lodged a petition representing

that he has been the victim of an unjust denunciation. When interrogated by the Court, he declared that he had not been infected with a craving for opium as accused by Shên Pao-chêng, and for which he had been dismissed from office. He challenges an investigation, that he may clear himself from the charge. Let the proper Board send the cashiered officer to Kiangsu, where the Governor Wu Yuan-ping will ascertain whether he really is infected with the vice of opium-smoking or not, and will report to Us the true state of the case. This without delay.

(3) A memorial from the Imperial Clan Court in answer to a decree calling upon them to determine the penalties to which the Prince of Kung, as a member of the Grand Council, has rendered himself liable for inability to suggest measures for successfully combating the famine that is now raging. The memorialists having searched in vain the statutes regulating the penalties to be inflicted on princes and nobility for a special clause indicating the precise nature of the severe punishment they are now called upon to determine, and having no precedent on record by which they could be guided, applied for assistance to the Board of Civil Office. The Board replied that they had experienced a similar difficulty in determining the penalties to be inflicted on the other members of the Council. After consultation, however, they had decided to suggest that these should be punished in the same manner as Governors-General or Governors, who on occasions of distress or suffering in their respective jurisdictions, have, from an utter want of administrative ability, failed to prevent dispersion of the people; that is, by dismissal from the public service. It would of course bé for the Imperial Clan Court themselves to determine the particular penalty to be inflicted on the Prince of Kung. The memorialists have to submit that, in the face of this calamity and terrible suffering that has visited the northern provinces, it was undoubtedly the duty of the prince, in his capacity of agent for the regulation of affairs of State, to have been ready with suggestions and remedies, and although, no doubt, his case differs somewhat from that of Governors-General and Governors in charge of definite areas, still, in view of his entire inability to repair the ravages caused by the famine, or to rescue its victims, and having regard to the decree ordering the determination of a severe penalty, they beg to submit the following remarks:—They find that in the statutes of their office it is laid down that when a prince or any member of the Imperial nobility commits a public offence in the discharge of a public duty, if the penalty be dismissal, such dismissal shall refer only to the particular office in the discharge of the duties of which the offence was committed, and shall not affect the tenure of any other offices held by such prince or nobleman, but a fine of half the salary attaching to the offender's rank of nobility shall be inflicted for the space of four years. There being no special clause laying down the penalties to which the Prince of Kung has now rendered himself liable, the memorialists do not venture to determine what these should be. They content themselves, as the Board of Civil Office have done, with indicating the letter of the law, and reverently await Their Majesties' decision thereupon. They have to add that the Prince of Kung has not appended his name to the present memorial, as he is, under the circumstances, debarred from doing so. (See *Gazette* of 29th March and April 7th and 8th.)

(4) A memorial from the Board of Civil Office, in the same strain as the above, dealing with the other members of the Grand Council.

April 24th.—(1) The greater portion of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a memorial from the Governor of Kiangsi giving a detailed explanation of some suspicious circumstances in connection with the provincial examinations for the year 1873. The papers having as usual been sent at the conclusion of the examination to Peking for scrutiny, it was discovered by the officer engaged in this task that the papers of one of the successful candidates did not agree with the copy in red ink upon which the decision is formed, and that there was a suspicious mark in the corner of one of the originals, which looked like a private signal. The Governor was therefore called upon for an explanation. This was sent some time ago, but as it was considered unsatisfactory, a fresh enquiry was ordered to be held. After much trouble, owing to the difficulty of finding the copyists employed at the time, a true history of the case has been arrived at, which is, briefly, as follows:—Hiung Hung-shêng entered as a candidate at the Kiangsi provincial examination for 1873. Fan Kung-k'wan and Ch'ên Kwang-hwei were employed, amongst others, as copyists, after having passed the usual test. In the first set of papers given out for copying, No. 22, under the distinguishing character 宙 fell to Ch'ên Kwang-hwei. Two of the characters in the verses seemed to him

inappropriate, and as he read the composition through, the spirit of poetry was aroused within him, causing him, almost unwittingly, to substitute two other characters for the obnoxious ones. The papers under the same number and distinguishing character fell to Fan Kung-k'wan in the third series, and after he had copied them and was comparing his copy with the original, it occurred to him that one of the questions was, by a clerical error, answered incorrectly, and he therefore altered fourteen characters. The name of the candidate being pasted down, it was quite impossible for him to know whose essay it was. With regard to the characters at the edge of the paper that aroused the suspicions of the scrutinising officer, Hiung Hung-shêng, the graduate, explained some time ago that having several times been "posted" at previous examinations for mistakes in the copying of his compositions, such as the omission of a page, writing upside down, etc., he had, at the advice of his preceptor, adopted the expedient of writing two characters at the top and bottom of the side of the page, to guide him and prevent mistakes. One of the copyists being dead, no more need be said regarding his offence. The other, through a pardonable piece of stupidity, has rendered himself liable to 100 blows and banishment for three years, but as the offence was committed prior to the Act of Grace of 1875, and comes within the provisions of that Act, the penalty should be remitted.—Referred to the Board.

April 25th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Li Ho-nien and Yuan Paohêng soliciting the bestowal of a memorial tablet upon a temple in Honan, the presiding deity of which has manifested itself lately in a most marked manner. The Lung Shên-sze in the Hiu-wu District is noted for the frequency of the divine interposition displayed in answer to prayers there offered, and on the present occasion, when an officer was sent to pray for rain, a plenteous and universal fall was vouchsafed a few days afterwards, insomuch that it is now possible to proceed with the sowing of the autumn crops. Our gratitude is indeed profound, and We command the officers of the Imperial Studio and the Han-lin-yuan to prepare a tablet with a memorial inscription, which is to be sent to Li Ho-nien to be reverently suspended in Lung-shên-sze as a recognition of the divine protection.

(2) A decree referring to the extent of the famine in Chihli, which in spite of the efforts of Li Hung-chang to combat it, is, it is to be feared, almost beyond the reach of his resources. Rain to the extent of 4 or 5 inches of saturation is reported to have fallen, but not sufficient thoroughly to moisten the ground, and too late to rescue the spring crops. As some time must elapse before the gathering of the autumn harvest, unless immediate relief can be afforded them, the people will be driven to leave their homes in search of food. A further appropriation of 120,000 piculs of tribute grain from Kiangsu, and 40,000 from the portion of the same province north of the Yangtze, is ordered to be made from supplies *en route* to Peking, and forwarded by Li Hung-chang to the famine districts in question.

(3) A memorial from T'uh Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, who reports that, having handed over his seals of office as Governor of Kwangsi, he started for Peking on the 9th February. Filled with a sense of the urgency of the need of the sufferers in Honan, he had applied for permission to devote Tls. 12,000 of his anti-extortion allowance to the purchase of grain, and, subsequently, he received a communication from the Board of Revenue informing him that the Imperial sanction had been given to the negotiation of loans with other provinces by Honan. The memorialist thereupon took counsel with the newly appointed Governor of Kwangsi, and obtained from him a loan of Tls. 20,000. Passing through Ch'ang-sha on his way North, he obtained a promise from the Acting Governor of Hunan of a loan of Tls. 20,000, and he at once despatched officers to expend this and the other sums collected in the purchase of grain, of the speedy despatch of which he advised the Honan authorities. Having completed these arrangements he proceeded on his journey, and in due course reached Hupêh, where he was met by an Imperial decree ordering him to proceed direct to his post without visiting Peking. He will accordingly drop down the river to Yangchow, from whence he will proceed northwards. In the meantime he considers it his duty to report the steps he has taken for the purchase of grain, etc. He has borrowed the seal of the Governor of Hupêh to append to this memorial.

(4) Mu-t'u-shan and Kwei-ch'ang, Military Lieutenant-Governor and deputy Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar respectively, report the escape of two ex-officials condemned to service on the military post roads in expiation of offences committed by them. One Shên She-yuan formerly an expectant second class

assistant Secretary in the Board of Revenue, had been guilty of causing a tumult resulting in loss of life by the purchase of a woman for a concubine, and was posted at station No. 11, where he has been for the last three years. The other, posted at station No. 18, was a Lieutenant in the army, and was convicted of employing illegal modes of punishment and arresting innocent persons; he arrived on the station last year. Search has been made everywhere for the fugitives, without success, and information of their escape has been sent to the Governor-General of Chihli, the Governor of Shansi, and others. The memorialists have further to request that the metropolitan authorities may be directed to look out for them.

April 26th.—(1) A second memorial from the Comptrollers of the Imperial Household in answer to a decree censuring the vagueness of their earlier report on palace expenditure, and calling for a detailed list of items. After quoting at length the decrees on the subject already issued, the memorialists go on to say that the sincerity of the love and unwearying solicitude for the welfare of Their subjects which prompts Their Majesties to be so determined in the exercise of economy, has filled the hearts of Their servants with gratitude and reverence. They have now to report that, with the exception of necessary repairs within the palace, and special orders for additional articles, for which special grants have to be obtained, all expenditure by memorialists' yamên is regulated by laws which have been strictly adhered to for many years. Of late, owing to want of funds, no repairs having been executed within the palace, or additional articles called for, there has been no necessity for applying for special grants. The declaration of memorialists in their earlier report that no extravagance or waste had been indulged in, was based upon careful enquiry and actual observation, and is literally and absolutely true. The items of imperative expenditure for several years past may be summarised under the following headings :—

a.—Sacrificial observances at Altars 壇, State Temples, and Mausolea.

b.—Expenditure within the palace.

c.—Food and maintenance for officers of the Imperial guard in charge of the "Forbidden precincts;" rations for troops, funds or account of expenditure by the various departments of memorialists' yamên, presents to envoys from tributary states, allowances to the Board of Music, the Palace Stud, the Imperial Armoury, Parks, Hunting Grounds, the Grand Council, the Board of Ceremonies, the Court of Censors, the Office of Gendarmerie, the Governor of Shun-t'ien, the Banner Corps, Establishments at Jêhol and Mi-yun, &c. Under this last heading many items have from time to time been reduced, and sums at one time paid in silver are now in some cases paid in *cash*. The memorialists would not of course venture to contemplate the reduction of expenditure involving such important considerations as the performance of sacrificial rites or ceremonies; all then that it is in their power to deal with are miscellaneous and separate items which, as already reported, they will make it their care to scrutinise as they present themselves, and as soon as the economies thus effected amount to an appreciable sum they will again address His Majesty. Having now reverently received Their Majesties' commands to draw up a list of all items of expenditure, they have, in obedience thereto, carefully scrutinised the accounts, and beg to submit a return of the same for Their Majesties' perusal. From the year 1858 to the year 1874, the funds at the disposal of memorialists being insufficient to meet the calls that were made upon them, repeated appropriations were sanctioned from the various Boards, and now, in addition to expenditure under the heading of sacrificial rites, more than Tls. 9,180,000 have been appropriated in this manner. For the past three years the income at their disposal has been so small that it behoved them to be more than ever economical, and no extraordinary expenditure has been indulged in. In spite of this they still have old debts hanging over them to the extent of more than Tls. 1,300,000, which they hope to pay off as soon as the funds in the Treasury of the Privy Purse shall show a surplus. In thus arranging to meet their engagements from funds that do not yet exist, they have endeavoured to fend off their obligations, but they are still harassed by debts of more recent standing. Hence it may be seen that so far from indulging in extravagance or waste, the memorialists are trying to shut their eyes to their embarrassments and patch up their difficulties as best they can, economising where, practically, there is no room for economy, and that their difficulties arise from a daily diminution of income. (See *Gazettes* of March 29th and 30th, and April 2nd, 9th, and 14th.)

(2) Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szech'wan, reports three cases of filial and

conjugal devotion, and solicits the bestowal of marks, Imperial approbation upon the persons who have thus distinguished themselves. The first case is that of a poor man in the P'êng-ki district, whose parents were both over seventy years of age. His father was stricken with paralysis, and for five years had not risen from his bed, during which time his son had tended him with the utmost devotion. One day the old man expressed a wish to have some liver for his dinner, but there was none to be procured in the village in which they lived, so the son, anxious to display the sincerity of his affection, made an incision in his stomach about three inches long, and cut a piece off his own liver, which he served up to his father, who promptly recovered from his sickness. The bowel protruded from the incision in the son's stomach, but the wound has now healed, leaving a scar to testify to his devotion which calls forth the admiration of all who see it. The second case is that of a poor man, also in the same district, whose widowed mother was dangerously ill. The medicines she took being of no avail, after silent and earnest prayer, he cut a piece of flesh three inches long from his breast and mixed it with her medicine, when a cure was immediately effected, an illness which had prostrated her for several years being thus cured in a single day. In the third case a woman, whose husband and only son had died when she was but nineteen years of age, devoted the rest of her life to the care of her husband's parents, ministering to them tenderly for more than ten years. One day, her mother-in-law, who had been suffering from an affection of the stomach for several years, had a sudden craving for meat, and as at the time there happened to be a prohibition in force against the slaughter of animals, the daughter having heard that human flesh was occasionally efficacious in the curing of disease, surreptitiously cut a piece of flesh from her ribs, five inches in length,—after burning incense and praying to Heaven—which she cooked and served up to her mother-in-law, whose malady gradually disappeared. The daughter said nothing about her self-mutilation, but it was discovered by another woman who noticed marks of blood upon her clothes.—Rescript: We sanction the bestowal of marks of approbation upon each of the persons in question. Let the Board of Ceremonies take note.

April 27th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-tien reports a fall of rain throughout his jurisdiction varying from a tenth of an inch to an inch of saturation.

(1) A further decree on palace expenditure. The list of items sent in by the Comptrollers of the Imperial Household having been referred to the Grand Secretaries and nine Chief Ministries of State for inspection and remarks, they now submit that it would be unbecoming in them to venture to consider economy or reduction in expenditure appertaining to rites or ceremonies. With regard to receipts and payments on account of expenditure within the palace and by the various departments outside, they recommend that the officers of the Imperial Household shall be instructed to persevere in the practice of the economies they have already been exercising. This they are now commanded in emphatic language to do, and reference is made to the charges of a Censor who declares that all payments by this office are subjected to a discount of twenty or thirty per cent., which has of late been increased to a still larger amount; and that Secretaries of Department who have obtained their rank by purchase scheme to be placed on special commissions which bring them in annually some tens of thousands of taels. Every fraction expended in the palace or by the Government, is the property of the State, and no discount, appropriation, or fraud of any kind can be allowed in its distribution. The Comptrollers of the Imperial Household are at once to investigate the charges of the Censor, and severely punish anyone found guilty of the practices complained of. The Censor deprecates the system of placing more than one Secretary of Department in charge of works, or vesting the control of expenditure in several individuals, as the practice not only leads to increased peculation, but also to strife and wrangling. It would be inexpedient to alter the present system, but care must in future be taken in the selection of these officers, and they must not make the title of "coadjutor" a handle for peculation and malpractices of a like nature.

(2) A memorial from Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Hupeh, reporting the trial of a case of murder in which a brother and sister compassed the death of the latter's affianced husband. The facts are as follows:—Küeh Ch'un-shêng and Küeh Wu-ying are brother and sister; and the latter was affianced to one Ch'ên Hai-shêng, a fisherman by trade, who lived on the opposite side of the Tunting lake. Her expectant mother-in-law took the girl to live with her before the marriage came off, but in January, 1876, she went home to see her mother, who kept her to spend the new year. One night, her brother, who was

very drunk, went into her bedroom and committed incest with her, repeating the offence on several subsequent occasions. The mother knew nothing about this, and in the month of April sent the girl back to her future home. The mother-in-law being old and unable to go out in the boat with her son, it was arranged that Küeh Ch'un-shêng should help his sister's fiancée, and have a share in the profits of the fishing. In the meantime the girl had had improper relations with her betrothed, unbeknown to the mother, and became with child by him. In the month of June the brother and sister, and Ch'ên Hai-shêng, her betrothed, went out on the lake to fish. Towards night-time Ch'ên Hai-shêng laid down in the boat and fell sound asleep. Küeh Ch'un-shêng, thinking to himself that his incestuous intercourse with his sister must in the end be discovered, and would certainly be objected to by Ch'ên Hai-shêng, resolved to kill him. He imparted his plan to his sister, and proposed that after they had killed him they should escape to some distant part of the country, where he would find her another husband in a respectable family. The sister having consented, they poled the boat to a secluded spot, and having looked around to see that no one was near, they got a piece of rope and tied the hands of the sleeping man, who woke in alarm and struggled to free himself, shouting the while for help, and cursing his assailants. Küeh Ch'un-shêng then struck him on the head with an oar, and took two turns round his neck with a piece of rope, which he pulled with either hand in different directions and throttled his victim. The two then undid the cords from the throat and hands of the murdered man, threw him overboard, and sailed away. At the end of five days, the old mother, wondering what had become of her son and his companions, sent out to look for them, when the corpse of her son was found floating in the lake with a wound on the temple and bruises on the throat and wrists. The condition of the body and the suspicious absence of the boat and its remaining occupants caused search to be made for them, and they were caught and placed upon their trial, when the above facts were elicited. During her incarceration the woman gave birth to a son which she fathered on the murdered man. The woman has been sentenced to death by a slow and disgraceful process *(ling-ch'e)*, as the law recognises no difference between murder of an actual and of an affianced husband. The man, who in the first instance has incurred the penalty of death by the crime of incest, has been sentenced on the second and graver count of murder, to decapitation, with the addition of exposure of the head, to mark the double crime. The murdered man would have been liable to punishment for improper intercourse with his future wife, but as he is dead there is no occasion to consider his offence. The child has been handed over to the mother of the murdered man, that the family succession may be maintained.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

April 28th.—(1) A decree re-appointing Kwang-lin 廣麟 to the post of superintendent of the Hwai-ngan customs.

(2) A decree ordering an investigation to be held into certain charges brought by the Censor Têng Ts'ing-lin against a Secretary in the Imperial Banqueting Court, whom he charges with usurpation of authority, peculation, and misappropriation of public funds. Also, with having neglected to report the loss of monies from the treasury of his department and keys under his charge, and, finally, with imposing a "weight allowance" on all monies possing through his hands over and above that officially recognised. With the exception of one or two documents of minor importance, the remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a memorial from Chow Shêng-chu, Supervising Censor of the Board of Revenue, on the subject of the competition between Hwai-ngan and Szech'wan salt. His memorial, which in a decree of the 17th inst. was referred to the Board of Revenue for consideration with those of Shên Pao-chêng and Li Ho-nien on the same subject, contains little more than a repetition of the arguments that have already been summarised in earlier decrees. While endorsing more particularly the proposal for the admission of both Hwai-ngan and Szech'wan salt to the Hu-kwang area, submitted by Li Ho-nien, he urges the adoption of a longer period than was assigned by that officer to test the merits of his scheme. The memorialist confidently expects that the proposed increase of taxation will result in an annual addition to the revenue of one million strings of *cash*.

April 29th.—(Abstracts of memorials.) Li Ho-nien reports on the rainfall throughout his province. Rescript: "We are indeed consoled and gratified at the intelligence. Let him continue to exert himself in the execution of measures of relief, that compassion may be shown for Our suffering people."

(1) A decree referring to a representation from the Censor Ngow Yang-yün, who, some time since, requested that a stop might be put to the practice of levying fees over and above the authorised amounts of land and grain tax in Kiangsu, to provide for the customary presents to the high officials at the four seasons, and on the occasion of their respective birthdays. The charge having been referred to the Governor of the province, he declares that *pro rata* contributions (攤損) and illegal exactions were put a stop to during the incumbency of Tsêng Kwoh-fan in 1862, and at the same time the amount of contributions that were to be paid towards office and working expenses were determined. Later on, in 1873, in consequence of the rise in the value of silver, the scale of cash payments was revised by Liu Kwen-yi, then Governor of the province, but no practices of the kind referred to are permitted. The present system has worked well and to the satisfaction of every one, and any sudden change would probably be the signal for a revival of old abuses. In consideration of the fact that the present system is working so satisfactorily, it is decreed that no departure need be made from the rates laid down in 1873, but care must be taken to prevent the acceptance or offering of presents by the official class.

(2) A memorial by the Governor-General, Governor, and Literary Chancellor of Fuhkien, requesting the bestowal of a mark of honorary distinction upon the principal of an educational institution, whose teaching has been attended with the most satisfactory results. In the year 1867, Yang Ts'ing-shên, late Director of the Court of Imperial entertainments, and Shên Pao-chêng, now Governor-General of the Liang Kiang, converted an establishment at Foochow, for the publication and sale of standard works at wholesale prices (書局)* into an educational institution, to which they gave the name of the *Chêng I Shu Yuan*, having for its object the higher education of provincial graduates and licentiates. Lin Hoh-nien, formerly Governor of Yünnan, was invited to accept the post of principal or director of studies with a salary, and he has now performed these functions for a period of twelve years with the most unqualified success; the names of successful candidates that he has turned out at the provincial and metropolitan competitions filling several sheets. No less than sixteen of his pupils are now holding office in the Han-lin College, the Supervisorate of Instruction, and the various Boards, or acting as district magistrates, all of whom owe their advancement to his teaching and guidance. A representation has lately been made to the memorialists, signed by Fan Ping-nien, Compiler of the Han-lin, and others, to the effect that in the province of Fuhkien students of the canonical books have hitherto been divided into two factions, ranging themselves amongst those who accept the expositions of the Sung schoolmen, or adhering to the interpretations of scholars of the Han dynasty. Lin Hoh-nien has steered a middle course, accepting the best teachings of either school, and refusing to declare himself an adherent of either party. In addition to the supervision and criticism of verse composition and other literary exercises, he gives monthly expositions of the canonical books, and superintends the production of essys thereon, endeavouring to advance sound learning and to give prominence to the importance of establishing knowledge upon sure foundations. He has now been engaged for twelve years in this task, and the compiler begs that application may be made to His Majesty for the bestowal of an honorary distinction upon him. The memorialists, after quoting a statute to the effect that in the event of the principal of an educational establishment giving tangible results of a capacity for teaching, application shall be made to the Throne at the end of six years for the bestowal of a mark of honorary distinction, go on to state that in the present instance the person for whom this distinction is solicited has extended his labours over twice that period, and to a thorough knowledge of the subjects he teaches, adds a wonderful knack of imparting it to others, thus advancing the cause of learning, directing study in the right channel, and preventing any straying into the paths of heterodoxy. They feel it their duty, therefore, not to be silent on the subject of his merits, and beg His Majesty to confer upon him a distinguished form of reward, that due honor may be paid to literature and instruction and a stimulus given to aged scholars. Rescript. Let Li Hoh-nien he handed over to the Board for the bestowal of the highest marks of honorary distinction.

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* NOTE.—The Shuh-kü 書局 were established in three or four of the provincial cities at the close of the T'aip'ing rebellion for the purpose of offering to the

public at nominally wholesale prices educational and other works of a standard nature, which were rapidly becoming scarce owing to the destruction of copies and type during the progress of the rebellion. The capital was in the first instance raised by public subscription, and the establishments are under official supervision, a tariff of prices being published which are not allowed to be exceeded. The type as a rule is excellent, and the prices of the books sold are much lower than those charged at the ordinary book shops. For the information of those who may feel inclined to avail themselves of these establishments, it may be added that they are to be found, amongst other places, at Wuch'ang, Nanking, and Hangchow.

April 30th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Li-fan, who states that a man called Chwang T'ing-hwa, a native of the Wan-p'ing district of the Shun-t'ien prefecture, who was formerly a gate-keeper in the Tartar General's Yamên at Foochow, is now wearing a button of the fifth grade. That his eldest son, Chwang Wei-kün, has purchased the rank of second class Assistant Secretary of the Board of Revenue; and that the second son has changed his name to Hwei-ch'ang, and under this name has fraudulently enrolled himself in the Manchu division of the Bordered Blue Banner corps, besides serving as Assistant Secretary on probation in the Board of Revenue. In addition to this, the last-named individual continued to perform his official duties after his mother's death, and wore no mourning for her. The father and sons are to be handed over to the Board of Punishments to be examined on the charge of assuming rank to which, from the mean origin of the former, they were not entitled.

(2) A decree ordering that a number of officials, chiefly substantive or expectant department and district Magistrates, who are denounced by Ting Pao-chêng for persistently neglecting to refund arrears of public monies due from them, be deprived of rank and criminally proceeded against. Any family property they may possess is to be sequestered to the amount of their defalcations.

(3) A Decree. Ying-kwei (Grand Secretary and Supervisor-General of the Mongolian Superintendency), reports that his malady continues unabated, and requests permission to retire. As a special act of grace, and a mark of our particular regard, We permit him to retire upon his full salary, and to retain the title of Grand Secretary.

(4) Memorial by the Board of Civil Office determining, in obedience to decree, the penalty that should be inflicted on Hwang T'i-fang, Supervisor of Instruction, for having intruded upon His Majesty accusations against the President of the Board of Revenue based upon no foundation. They consider that this offence would be adequately punished by degradation to the extent of two steps of honorary official rank with leave to retain his post. As the fault was one connected with his official duties, they beg to point out that the penalty of degradation can be commuted by a monetary payment. (See *Gazettes* of April 13th, 14th and 16th.)

(5) King-têh reports the loss of the silver seal in use at the King-yün gate of the palace. This seal is deposited in the office of the Secretary on duty in charge of the keys. It is placed in a box, the key of which is kept by the high officer whose turn it is for duty at the palace. There are, besides, duplicate keys to the press in which this box is deposited, and these are in the custody of the Assistant Secretary and writer on duty. On the 10th of last month the secretary and writer on duty applied to memorialist for the key of the seal box, as the seal was required for use. They shortly returned in a state of consternation to say that the seal had disappeared. The lock on the outer cupboard they found in proper order, but when they came to open the box they found that the lock had been wrenched off and the contents abstracted. The memorialist, as usual, solicits the infliction of a penalty upon himself, and requests that the secretary and writer on duty on the last occasion upon which the seal was used, may, with the two who reported its loss, be sent to the Board of Punishments for trial. (See *Gazette* of 12th April.)

May 1st.—(Abstracts of memorials.) Shên Pao-chêng reports that he proposes to devote the balance of the funds in hand for relief purposes to the expenses consequent upon the capture of locusts.—Rescript: It is noted. The locusts in Kiang-nan have not yet been extirpated; let the Governor-General direct his subordinates carefully to dig out and capture the grub, that it may not again come to maturity.

(1) A decree referring to instructions issued in the *Gazette* of the 20th April to Li Hung-chang directing him to investigate a charge brought against two district magistrates and their subordinates of malpractices in connection with the distribution of famine relief. These charges having been reiterated by the Censor

Li-fan, who requests that if they be proven the delinquents may be sentenced to capital punishment, irrespective of the amount of their illicit gains, the Governor-General is directed to place them on their trial, and, if the accusations are substantiated, to apply to the Throne for sanction to the infliction of capital punishment upon them. The Censor further charges several officials in the provinces of Chihli, Shansi, Honan and Shênsi, with the suppression of facts relating to the distress in their respective jurisdictions, and mal-administration of famine relief. Reports are called for from the high authorities concerned, who are to denounce the offenders if the facts alleged be true. The Censor further states that in the prefecture of P'ing-yang in Shansi, great numbers have died from want, whilst large stores were actually lying in the granaries ready for distribution. This and other charges are to be enquired into by the Governor and famine Commissioner, and a careful report submitted.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from Shên Pao-chêng, directing that the name of the late Li Lien-hiu, formerly Director of the Grand Court of Revision, and subsequently Literary Chancellor of Fuhkien and Kiangsu, who died in the reign of the Emperor Hien Fêng, be enrolled in the list of literary worthies kept by the State Historiographer's Office, and that an account of his life and literary achievements be supplied to the same office, for the compilation of his official biography.

(3) A memorial by Ting Pao-chêng Governor-General of Szech'wan, reporting the result of an enquiry into the circumstances of the escape of two criminals under sentence of death from the provincial prison. After careful enquiry it has been ascertained that the escape was effected under cover of a dark and stormy night, while the watchmen on duty were asleep, the prisoners having wrenched off their manacles and employed them as levers to force asunder the wooden bars of their prison ; they then dug a hole at the foot of the inner wall through which they crawled, and climbed by means of a tree on to the top of the outer wall, from which they jumped down and decamped. It was established beyond doubt that neither the jail warden nor the lower prison officers aided or abetted them in their escape, but, be that as it may, that they did manage to get away was owing to a temporary want of supervision on the part of the two gaolers, with whom the law must take its course. They have accordingly been sentenced to 100 blows and banishment for three years. The watchmen on duty are to receive 80 blows and wear the cangue for two months, and the jail warden, who has already been cashiered, is to be detained for the purpose of assisting in the capture of the escaped criminals. If at the end of five years they still remain at large the question of further punishment will be taken into consideration.

May 2nd.—(1) A Decree. Inasmuch as, while the capital had been visited with successive falls of refreshing rain, the provinces of Shansi and Honan were still in urgent need thereof, on the 24th ult. We again offered up earnest prayers for rain. Li Ho-nien now reports that universal and soaking rain has fallen throughout his jurisdiction, but We are still without news of a similar downpour in Shansi, and Our anxiety for the sufferings of the people continues to be intense. We have now been honored with Their Majesties' commands to the effect that although the Comptrollers of the Imperial Household are under orders to exercise economy and retrenchment, time will be required before results can be shown, and in the meantime the people are crying aloud for food and the alleviation of their distress will admit of no delay. The office of the Imperial Household is therefore called upon, as a preliminary step, to provide several tens of thousands of taels, no matter how difficult a task this may be, for distribution in the provinces of Honan and Shansi. Though well aware of the enormous sums that are required for the efficient administration of relief, Their Majesties cannot relax Their energies or cease to concern Themselves about the sufferings of the people [because They are unable fully to cope with the disaster] that has befallen Their people. Let the comptrollers of the Imperial Household, in reverent obedience to Their Majesties' commands, at once devise measures for the appropriation of the sums required.

(2) A decree sanctioning the erection of a memorial temple in Anhwei to the late Kiang Ch'ang-kwei, provincial commander-in-chief, who did great service against the rebels in Kwangsi, Chêkiang, Kiangsu, and Anhwei.

(3) A decree ordering Mao-lin, Comptroller of the Imperial Household, and his brother Ts'ing-lin, Warden of the Imperial Parks, to be handed over to the Board for the adjudication of a penalty, the charge of unauthorised appropriation of Government temple lands having been fully proven against them. The priest who sanctioned the appropriation, with a Yamên clerk who

has been induced by Mao-lin to come forward in the matter, are also to be punished. (See *Gazette* of 3rd and 7th April.)

(4) A memorial by Chu Yi-tsêng, Censor of the Kiangsi circuit, who points out that a district Magistrate was lately gazetted to a post after his death, and requests that the clerks responsible for the fraud may be severely punished. It is well known to everyone that candidates awaiting selection for appointments in the provinces are obliged to present themselves in person at the Board on the first day of the month, with their credentials, and that the name of anyone failing to do so is struck off the list, although his turn has arrived for taking up an appointment. In the list of "selections" gazetted for the second moon of the present year, memorialist was astonished to see that Liang-chên, a *liankün* of the inner division of the White Banner, had drawn an appointment as district Magistrate in Szech'wan. Now, Liang-chên had obtained the degree of metropolitan graduate at the same time as memorialist, who knows for a fact that he died on the 29th day of the first moon of the present year; how then could he have presented himself at the Board on the first of the second moon? If he had not so presented himself, he had no right to draw lots for the province to which he was to be assigned; if he did present himself, it must naturally have been in the person of a substitute. That there has been underhand work somewhere is evident, and the memorialist prays that a searching enquiry may be made, and the offending clerks, to whose machinations he attributes the fraud, immediately brought to book.

May 3rd.—(1) A decree ordering a further series of intercessory prayers for rain on the 7th inst. Although reports have been received from Honan of a plenteous and universal downpour, news of a similar nature has not arrived from Shansi, and for many days past the rain that earlier fell in the capital has not been succeeded by further showers. His Majesty will proceed in person to the T'ai Kao Tien.

(2) A Decree. Pao-t'ing, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, submits a scheme for raising funds to meet expenditure on account of famine relief by the issue of Government bonds. We have already sanctioned a proposal submitted by the Governor and Famine Commissioner of Honan that money shall be borrowed at interest from the wealthier people and repaid within three years out of the land tax. The bonds which the Tutor now proposes to issue are to be of the value of Tls. 10,000, Tls. 1,000, and Tls. 100 respectively. The scrip is to be stamped with the seal of the Lieut.-Governor, and to bear an endorsement to the effect that it is redeemable in ten years without interest. Bonds are to be supplied to the various district Magistrates for issue to purchasers, who will be entitled to the bestowal of memorial boards or honorary distinction in proportion to the amount of stock they hold. Persons securing a large sale of bonds by persuasion and exhortation, should also, on the recommendation of officials or gentry, be rewarded with honorary distinctions. Committees of respectable gentry are to be entrusted with the management of all matters connected with the receipt and payment of money, that it may not have to pass through the hands of clerks and official underlings. When the time comes for the redemption of these bonds, holders of scrip are to apply at the various magistracies in person for the money, provision for the repayment of which is to be made beforehand out of the land tax. Grain will also be accepted, and scrip issued in accordance with its monetary value. Let Li Hung-chang, Yên King-ming, Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Li Hoh-nien, T'uh Tsung-ying, and Yuan Pao-hêng consider this scheme and report on its practicability without delay. Let it also be communicated by the Board of Revenue to the other provincial governments, that they also may consider its application.

(3) The Court of Censors report the presentation of the following petition by one Sun Tsung-mei, a native of the T'an district in Shantung:—"My age is 60 years, and I live at a village called Tung-fang in the T'an district, where I follow the calling of a farmer. One day in the beginning of last year, a man called Wang-twan, with whom my cousin was constantly quarrelling, applied to him for the loan of some money, and on my cousin refusing to accommodate him, he killed him and robbed the house of ten strings of *cash*. My cousin's son applied at the magistracy for the arrest of the murderer, but the underlings had already been bribed, and instead of listening to his appeal, locked him up and gave orders for the funeral to be proceeded with. Some months later, my son, having heard that the murderer was concealed in the house of a man called Ni, laid information at the magistracy. Instead of arresting the man, as he expected, they were very indignant with my son, and gave him two hundred blows with the whip. I then complained at the Prefect's Yamên, with the result that my house was surrounded by a body of soldiers from the

Magistrate's Yamên, who searched my premises and cruelly beat my wife with the backs of their swords, carrying off my own brother to the Magistrate's Yamên. I then appealed again to the Prefect, and, subsequently, to the Lieutenant-Governor, but on each occasion I was referred to the Magistrate, until, driven to desperation, I have come to Peking to lay my plaint." After summarising the statements of the petitioner in the stereotyped manner, the memorialists point out that he has neglected to take his case to the Governor of the province. The decree has already been published.

May 4th.—(Court Circular.) Ts'ing-lin pays his respects on his return to Peking with the sacred portrait. (Probably that of the late Emperor.)

(1) Postscript memorial by Ming-an, Vice-President of the Board of Punishments at Moukden, reporting the receipt of a joint communication from the Deputy Lieut.-Governors of Ningutá and Altch'uka, informing him that a Manchu captain had been guilty of arresting innocent persons, and extorting from them a confession of guilt by unlawful modes of punishment. This officer, Pao-ch'êng by name, had, at the instigation of one of his soldiers, arrested a party of eight traders, who had with them the sum of $400 and three large carts, which he forced them to confess they had stolen. On the case being sent on to Ningutá for re-hearing by the Lieut.-Governor, it was found that the men were traders from Hwun-ch'un on the borders of Corea, in the employ of Russians, and were on their way to Hai-shên-wei and other places to trade and bring back goods. At the end of last year they made up a party, and having hired carts from a Manchu, at Hwun-ch'un, called Fuh, were on their way to Ningutá when they were seized. They had not been guilty of robbery or any lawless acts, and the confession they were made to sign was proved to be false, as the establishment from which the carts were said to be stolen declared that they had lost none. Their respectability having been guaranteed by shopkeepers at Hwun-ch'un and Ningutá, they were set at liberty on their own recognisances, and the $400 returned to them, the captain being at the same time placed on his trial. As he has once before been convicted of an offence of a similar nature, it is recommended that he be dismissed and for ever debarred from future employment in an official capacity.

May 5th.—(1) A Decree. Shên Pao-chêng memorialises requesting that, in the interests of economy, orders may be given for the cessation of the provincial examinations for military degrees. The institution of military examinations has existed from time immemorial, and has never failed to draw forth talent, whether in the direction of defence or protection against intrusion, and Shên Pao-chêng in suddenly proposing, as a measure of economy, so sweeping a change of ancient regulations as the abolition of military examinations, assuredly displays an ignorance of the essentials of good Government. Let him therefore be censured forthwith. His proposal need not be considered.

(2) A decree appointing Liu Kin-t'ang 劉錦棠 to the post of Director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship. (Liu Kin-t'ang, in the decree of March 16th, announcing the Kashgarian successes, was placed first on his list for promotion.).

(3) Memorial by T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shênsi, reporting the death of Chang-ying, late Lieut.-Governor of Shansi, who last year received His Majesty's commands to assist in the administration of famine relief in his native province. After he had personally consulted with the memorialist as to the best system to be followed, it was decided that in view of the comparative magnitude of the distress in T'ung Chow prefecture, he should go there and establish an agency in the prefectural town, superintending in person the forwarding and distribution of supplies. He accordingly made a tour in the eastern portion of the province, visiting each departmental and district town to ascertain the amount of distress, and on his arrival at T'ung Chow established the agency in question, after which he returned to the capital. He then proceeded to inspect the western portions of the province, but caught cold on the journey, and was laid up, seriously ill, at Fu-p'ing. Memorialist sent persons to see him and insist on his remaining quiet, officers being at the same time deputed to carry on his work, that he might feel at liberty to return for a season to his native place, and take the repose he needed. Chang-ying, however, refused to do so, on the ground that as soon as he was better it was his duty to continue his tour of inspection. Sad to relate, he died at Fu-p'ing on the 21st March. The Magistrate, who had several times been directed to visit him, reports that as his end approached his last words were an expression of regret that he had been unable to show his gratitude for the sacred bounty of which he had been the recipient, and had failed in carrying through

to the end the distribution of relief. His elder son had hastened to minister to his father as soon as he heard of his illness; there is another son, at home, quite a youth, and the family will be left in great poverty. The memorialist prays that, in accordance with precedents which he quotes, His Majesty will be pleased to recognise the merits of the deceased by the bestowal of posthumous honors. (Granted by decree earlier published.)

May 6th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Chang P'ei-lun, Expositor of the Han-lin College, who submits that one of the first principles of good Government consists in the selection of proper agents for its administration. At the present time, either the Court, while recognising talent, has failed to employ it to the best advantage, or the Ministers of State, aware where it is to be found, are not altogether open in pointing it out. He complains that the decree on this subject issued on the 17th April was too concise, and requests further enunciation of the prohibition against hindering the advance of capable men, or the acceptance of bribes in return for recommendations. The State is in need of talented men to assist in the administration of Government, and We are unceasingly on the watch for it on every side. Whenever it becomes necessary to select an officer for a post, care and discretion are unfailingly exercised, with the object of employing talent in the direction in which it will best find scope. In many instances officers of tried experience and ability apply for permission to vacate their posts, that they may minister to their aged parents, or on account of sickness and ill-health. We cannot refuse their applications, and as competent men have to be selected to take their place, decrees are promulgated from time to time inviting them to come forward, that We may have around us officers on whom We can rely. The promulgation of these decrees is a prerogative to which Our Ministers are not entitled, but it is none the less a part of their duty to select men to serve their Sovereign, and if among their subordinates there be any of more than average talent and probity, who are worthy of being employed in any special capacity, let them, in reverent obedience to Our earlier decree, fairly and honestly recommend them, irrespective of personal likes or dislikes. In complaining of the conciseness of the decree in question, the Tutor displays the narrowness of his views. Some decrees are designed to convey an injunction in minute and definite terms, others to express general ideas; they are not formed after one particular pattern. There is no occasion for a fresh enunciation of the decree, which is already sufficiently explicit.

(2) Memorial by the Censor Ts'ao Ping-che, suggesting the removal of the agencies for dispensing rice gruel in Peking to the outer, or Chinese, city. (For decree see *Gazette* of April 18th.)

(3) Postscript memorial by the same officer suggesting that precautionary measures be taken against threatened distress from floods in the South. He commences with the assertion that one of the essentials of good government is an appreciation of dangers and misfortunes particularly to be guarded against, and the value of precautions taken depends on their completion before the advent of the particular evil they are destined to meet. Last year, the ravages of the unprecedented famine which destroyed so many millions of souls in Shansi and Honan were due entirely to an utter absence of precautionary measures. He has now heard that in the provinces of Kiangsu, Chêkiang, Kiangsi, Fuhkien, and Kwangtung, agriculture has in many instances been suspended in consequence of unceasing rain, or the seed, having been planted, has rotted in the ground, giving cause for serious apprehensions of a failure of food supplies. If then, out of abundance, provision has not been made against want, what response can be made when relief is claimed? The memorialist, therefore, begs His Majesty to instruct the high provincial authorities concerned to consider well what steps they can take for the supply of deficiencies and the rescue of possible victims. They should, in the first place, see that their granaries for the storage of surplus grain are fully stocked, and then they might encourage local contributions of money to be expended in the purchase of foreign grain. The conditions of the various provinces are so dissimilar that the memorialist does not venture to indicate the precise manner in which these contributions should be set on foot, that being a matter best left to the individual discretion of the high authorities in each province. (For decree see *Gazette* of April 18th.)

(4) Postscript memorial by Yên-hü, Military Lieutenant-Governor of Jeh-ho, to the effect that all reports and documents connected with the various Mongol Banner corps under his command have to be sent in in Mongolian, the use of Chinese characters being prohibited. Of late years, these reports have increased four fold, and although there are one or two translators specially

told off for the rendering of them into Chinese, their Chinese itself is so unintelligible that almost every translation has to be queried some three or four times before any sense can be got out of it. It may justly be inferred, therefore, that their rendering of the Mongolian text is very confused. The memorialist does not speak or read Mongolian himself, and is entirely dependent on his Mongolian secretaries for aid. He trusts, therefore, that the place of Ch'un-ling, whose time of service has expired, may be taken by an officer thoroughly conversant with Mongolian. Upon his arrival, the memorialist will carefully scrutinise his attainments in the Mongol tongue, and if these should appear to him to come short of thorough knowledge, he shall request the appointment of another in his stead.

May 7th.—(1) A decree granting Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, leave to retire on account of ill-health.

(2) Postscript memorial by the Censor Chang Kwan-chun, requesting that the numerous officials holding metropolitan appointments whose services have been applied for in the famine provinces, or who have been retained in their native provinces to assist in relief work, may be allowed to draw their salaries. Memorialist understands that the Board of Civil Office, under some regulation or other, is stopping their salaries, and he thinks it unfair that men who are engaged in so good and useful a work, and are employed in the public service just as much as if they were in the capital, should be made to suffer for their zeal. Such treatment is not calculated to induce others to come forward. (Sanctioned by decree earlier issued.)

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials which have already been summarised in decrees.

May 8th.—(1) A Decree. Some time since the Censor Ying-kün reported that a retired eunuch called Su had purchased a house and plot of land at the town of Shahoh, in which last year some of the troops stationed in the town had dug up over Tls. 10,000. The officers, in their greed and avarice, had endeavoured to get the money from the soldiers, and thereby nearly caused a serious tumult. This year, more than Tls. 100,000 have been dug out, and a vault full of silver was subsequently discovered. The Censor had been informed that the eunuch had reported this discovery to Their Majesties, who had been pleased to allow him to keep the money. We thereupon despatched officers to Shahoh to make enquiries, and they now report that altogether Tls. 16,600 have been excavated from the garden or court-yard attached to the house purchased by the eunuch, and not, as was stated, over Tls. 100,000. The eunuch Su-têh deposed that, not daring to touch the money without authority, he had reported its discovery to Their Majesties, who were graciously pleased to bestow it upon him; as for the vault, no such had been found. He was perfectly willing to surrender the money, and begged the officers once more to memorialise His Majesty on his behalf, praying Him graciously to accept it. With regard to the Censor's story of the money being forced from the soldiers by torture, they find that a soldier and a representative of the eunuch both went to the sub-Prefect's yamên to report that certain soldiers, whose names were given, had discovered money and secreted it. The sub-Prefect, after hearing the case, decided that the money was to be restored to the owner of the land, and punished the soldiers who had secreted it. The eunuch Su-têh having dug up money on his land, reported the discovery to Their Majesties, but did not tell the truth about the amount discovered, and Their Majesties were pleased to bestow it upon him. The officers sent to investigate the matter, having now submitted their report, We have received Their Majesties' commands that Tls. 14,000 of the money shall be handed over to the Governor of Shun-t'ien, to be expended in sending back famine refugees to their homes. The balance, Tls. 2,600, is to be given to the eunuch.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Governor and Famine Commissioner of Shansi, ordering the dismissal and trial of a department magistrate and others, charged with appropriation of relief funds, or carelessness in the distribution of the same.

(3) A decree appointing Wu Tsan-ch'êng 吳贊誠, Acting Governor of Fuhkien. (Wu Tsan-ch'êng is superintendent of the Foochow Arsenal.)

(4) Memorial by Li Hoh-nien, Acting Governor of Honan, reporting the trial of a woman for the murder of her mother-in-law, and her execution by the *ling ch'e* process. A woman called Su lived with her husband and mother-in-law in the Hwai-ning district. Su Man-t'ang, a near kinsman and neighbour, was on intimate terms with the husband Su Hio-li, to whose house he often went, and on many of these occasions the wife was present. In the middle of last year, Su Hio-li went

away to look for work, and soon after his departure Su Man-t'ang went to see his wife and began to sport with her, the result being an illicit connection which was often resumed unbeknown to the mother-in-law. One day, however, when she had returned rather suddenly from a chat with a neighbour, she caught the pair, beat the girl, and soundly rated the man, forbidding him the house and promising to let the husband know of their doings on his return. This she did, and the consequence was that the wife got a second beating. The husband again went away to work, and one day, shortly after his departure, the wife was standing in the doorway when Su Man-t'ang passed by. She told him how she had fared, and in reply to an invitation from the man to make an assignation with him, declared that her mother-in-law kept so strict a watch over her that it was impossible to evade her vigilance. Irritated, and fired with lust, Su Man-t'ang resolved to compass the old woman's death, that he might come and go to the house without restraint. He imparted his plans to the woman, and she agreed to aid him in his crime. Accordingly, one night while the husband was still absent, he came stealthily to the house about the third watch, and learning from his paramour that the old woman was fast sleep, went into her room and battered in her head with a cudgel, killing her then and there, after which he went back to his house leaving the woman behind. She was seized with fear and dared not stay, so she ran away and hid herself. The neighbours soon discovered the crime that had been committed, and sent for the son, who immediately returned and gave information to the authorities, resulting in the arrest of the guilty parties. The wife was sentenced to death by the slicing process, and the sentence was immediately carried out in a public place in the provincial city, the scene of the crime being beyond the limit to which criminals condemned to be executed at the scene of their crime are required to be sent. Su Man-t'ang would have been sentenced to decapitation, but he died before the conclusion of the trial, as did also the husband of the woman, upon whom also a penalty would have been inflicted for neglecting to keep his wife under proper restraint.

May 9th.—(1) A Decree. The Board of Civil Office submit the penalties which, in obedience to decree, they have determined should be inflicted on Mao-lin, Comptroller of the Imperial Household, and Ts'ing-lin his brother. The penalty of dismissal adjudicated by the Board is inadequate for so serious an offence as appropriation of Government temple land on which is an altar whereon sacrifices are offered for rain. Let Mao-lin and Ts'ing-lin be dismissed and sent to serve on the military post roads, in expiration of their misconduct. Let the clerks be dealt with as the Board propose.

(2) A decree approving the action of Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, who has summarily executed two granary clerks entrusted with the issue of supplies to relief agencies, who appropriated fifty piculs of grain *in transitu*. The summary execution of these clerks should be a sufficient warning to others, but the Governor is directed to be on the watch for offences of a similar nature, and to treat them with equal severity.

(3) A memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang requesting His Majesty to recall the patent of nobility conferred upon him in the decree of March 15th. On receipt of this decree, which reached him on the 26th March, having been forwarded express by the Board of War, he was moved to tears of gratitude for the honor that had been conferred upon him. After referring in grateful terms to the confidence and favors which have been bestowed upon him during three successive reigns, raising him from obscurity to his present position, he disclaims any merit for the successes he has achieved, which he attributes solely to the wise counsels of the Court. (For decree see *Gazette* of April 22nd.)

(4) The Governor of Kiangsu requests the bestowal of honorary rewards upon certain households who have come forward with additional contributions of land in aid of the charitable granaries in the provincial capital. The land, amounting in all to over 8,000 *mow*, and valued at Tls. 20 per *mow*, was subscribed long since, but, from different causes, many of the individuals failed to obtain the customary distinctions. A list of those still alive, amounting to fifty-six in number, is submitted for approval.—Referred to the Board of Civil Office.

May 10th.—(1) A decree appointing Kwang-show 廣壽 and Ch'êng-lin, Comptrollers of the Imperial Household.

(2-3) Decree appointing Kwoh-hiu 國秀 and Shu-nan 樹楠 to the posts of Supervising Censor of the Board of Works, and Censor of the Eastern division of the capital, respectively.

(4) A memorial from the Governor-General of the Liang-kiang, and the Governor of Kiangsu, with reference to an

application from the Governor of Honan, made some time since, that the Ti-chêng, or money paid in commutation of the taxes in kind, due to Peking from the two districts of Tan-yang and Kin-t'an, inclusive of the 20 per cent. reduction for local military purposes, should be applied to the purchase of grain for his province. The Board of Revenue refused to sanction the appropriation of the Peking subsidy, on the ground of the impoverished condition of the Imperial exchequer, but referred the question of the appropriation of the 20 per cent. reduction to the Kiangsu Government. The Governor-General and Governor accordingly applied to the Financial Commissioner, who now states that the money demanded forms a portion of the regular income of the province, the funds of which are at a terribly low ebb. He has a fixed expenditure of one million several hundred thousand taels to provide for annually, exclusive of special and extra items, and, to meet this, only Tls. 940,000 of revenue were collected last year, to which is to be added Tls. 92,000 monetary commutation of taxes in kind. Hence it may be seen that there is a large discrepancy between the income and expenditure of the province, which is not in a position to lend a single *candareen*. The condition of affairs, however, in Honan being so distressing, the people not knowing each morning where they shall turn for their evening meal—the Board having, moreover, requested His Majesty to order the appropriation of the sums in question—the Commissioner dare not but make an effort to contribute something, however trifling, in aid of the sufferers, and at least prevent their utter extermination. He proposes, therefore, that the sum of Tls. 18,000 odd, the equivalent of the 20 per cent. reduction of the monetary commutation due from the district in question, be lent to Honan, with the proviso that when taxation recommences in that province this shall be the first debt to be paid. The memorialists support the proposal of the Commissioner, and have advised the Governor of Honan of the amount with which they are prepared to supply him.—Rescript: Noted.

(5) Postscript memorial by the same officers, consenting to a demand from the Governor of Honan for the use of the balance of a fund for the relief of refugees, amounting to some Tls. 36,000. It was the intention of memorialists to retain this sum as a reserve upon which to draw in the event of any widespread want, or to meet the expenses attendant upon the capture of locusts. These, it appears from reports received, have been in the grub stage in various portions of the province, and orders have been given to encourage the extirpation of the grub, by purchasing it when produced in sufficient quantity. The sums expended in this manner have hitherto been advanced by the local officials, who have sent in their accounts later on, so, as there is no immediate demand for the money, it shall be lent to Honan, where so many millions are clamouring for food, and know not each day from whence their next meal will come. It is only right that the relative magnitude of the two evils should be weighed one against the other, and that which admits of delay be made to give place to the more urgent need. Tls. 6,000 shall be kept back to pay for the capture of locusts, but the remainder shall be sent forward, with the proviso that this shall be one of the first sums to be repaid upon the resumption of taxation in Honan.

May 11th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien reports a fall of rain in the capital of upwards of three inches of saturation.

(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Li Kia-loh, craving sanction for the erection of a memorial temple to the gentry, common people, and women who met their deaths on the occasion of the occupation of the An-yang district in Honan by rebels in 1863. That these people should have sold their lives in self-defence, or parted with them as the only means of preserving their chastity, is highly deserving of commiseration. The Censor, being a native of Honan, has particular facilities for obtaining information which is doubtless accurate. We command the proper Board, therefore, to bestow posthumous marks of approbation upon all whom they shall find upon enquiry have not so been honored. They will also sanction the erection of a memorial temple by private subscription.

(2) A decree in answer to a second memorial from the same Censor, calling attention to the permission which is granted to high provincial authorities, to crave a special mark of approbation from His Majesty in the case of commendable examples of filial piety, conjugal devotion, or chastity, and requesting that special orders may be given to the authorities of the famine provinces, in which many noble acts of devotion and filial piety must have been called forth by the suffering that has been endured, to report all such to His Majesty, and request the bestowal of marks of approbation. The request is granted, and the

high authorities concerned are instructed to take note.

(3) The Governor of Chêkiang reports the result of an investigation into the circumstances of the publication of a libellous pamphlet, accusing the Lieutenant-Governor, Literary Chancellor, Salt Commissioner, and others, of receiving bribes and indulging in various other malpractices, issued by one Ts'ao-lin, an ex-graduate deprived of his degree for persistent non-attendance at the periodical examinations. These officials had incurred his enmity in consequence of decisions adverse to his interests in lawsuits in which he was implicated. The man has since died, and the pamphlet has been suppressed.

(4) Memorial by the Court of Censors forwarding an appeal lodged by Tsêng Shao-hün, a cashiered magistrate, who states that he is 40 years of age, and is a native of Kwangsi, where he distinguished himself in operations against the rebels, and was recommended for appointment to a magistracy. He was sent to Kiangsu to await his turn for employment, and served in that province for over twenty years, being employed on special duty at Soochow, during which time he had never had anything against him. In October last, the Lieutenant-Governor sent him an intimation that the Kü-jung Magistracy was vacant, and as his turn had come for employment, the appointment should fall to him. He then went to Nanking to pay his respects to the Governor-General, having first seen the Lieutenant-Governor, after which he returned to Soochow. Two months afterwards he read in the *Gazette* that the Governor-General had applied for his dismissal on the ground that he was infected with the vice of opium smoking. He immediately petitioned the Governor-General, and applied to be put to the test, following up his application by a second one a few days later, but it was only at the expiration of a month that a reply was vouchsafed. It was to the following effect:—"If the officer considers himself aggrieved, he should lodge an appeal at the Court of Censorate. If the Governor-General has not adhered to the truth in his denunciation, it is his duty quietly to await the penalties that will be inflicted upon him. He cannot take back what he has said." The appellant, therefore, as he was not an opium-smoker, felt it his duty, in conformity with the Governor-General's reply, to appeal against his denunciation. (For decree see *Gazette* of 22nd April.)

May 12th.—(1) Memorial by Li Hoh-nien, acting-Governor of Honan, and Yuan Pao-hêng, Famine Commissioner, reporting on the rainfall throughout the province. They commence with the remark that the terrible distress that has prevailed in the province in consequence of successive years of drought has long been known and appreciated by the sacred intelligence, and the efforts made by Their Majesties the Empresses and the Emperor, by curtailment of food and earnest prayer, to entreat for the lives of millions of their subjects, has implanted in the memorialists a deep sense of respectful awe. Since the commencement of Spring they have on repeated occasions offered up prayers for rain, and although here and there were places in which a little fell, the quantity was quite insufficient to secure thorough moisture of the ground. After the middle of March, altars were prepared for continuous services to which the memorialists used to repair on foot both morning and evening, accompanied by their colleagues and subordinates, as well as the gentry and elders, to offer up earnest and heartfelt prayers. They also sent an officer to bring water from the *Ts'ing Lung Tung*, or Blue Dragon's cave, in the Hiu-wu district, to be offered in libations. On the 17th April and following days heavy clouds overspread the sky, and a little rain fell, till, on the 20th, about three inches of saturation had been obtained in the capital, and during the 22nd, 23rd and 24th, more than another four inches fell. Reports were received of a similar nature from the surrounding departments and districts. Those in the southern portion of the province had announced, at different times last month, that showers had fallen, and they now send word that a fall has been obtained varying from five inches to complete saturation. From the prefecture and districts to the North of the river, rain is reported to have fallen after the 21st April to a saturation of from one to three inches, while the weather continues gloomy and overcast. In the Ho-an prefecture the fall varies from two inches to complete saturation, and only Shan-chow remains with a fall of two inches. The whole province may therefore be said to have obtained some moisture, the arrival of which after so long a drought will enable the sowing of the autumn crop, sooner or later, to be proceeded with, as well as the second sowing of wheat. All relief work must continue to be prosecuted with vigour, and then the people will have some hopes of obtaining food hereafter, and the general anxiety will be to a certain extent allayed. Several millions of souls on either side of the great river are dependant on this

refreshing downpour for a turn in the tide of their fortunes, which is entirely attributable to the unceasing solicitude and exertions of the Sacred Master, who has moved [the pity of Heaven], and caused the whole province, officials and people alike, to clap their hands for joy. The memorialists have given orders that any further downpour shall be announced by the officers of the districts so favoured, and on receipt of intelligence of this nature they will report the same to His Majesty. (For rescript see *Gazette* of April 29th.)

(2) In a postscript memorial the same officers report that on perusal of the annals of the Hiu-wu and Wu-tui districts with a view to revision, they find that the Dragon God of the Blue Dragon cave manifested its divine powers in the latter district during the reign of the Emperor Yung-loh of the Ming dynasty, after which it responded frequently to prayers for rain. Again, in the 17th year of Kia-k'ing, when the region to the north of the river was visited by drought, the magistrate of the above-mentioned district went to the cave with the inhabitants of the village in which it is situated to pray for rain, which came down simultaneously with the arrival of his cart; whereupon the people raised a temple in honor of the Dragon God, whereat they worship in the spring and autumn. Many times since has the deity manifested itself in answer to prayer, and on this last occasion when an officer was sent there to pray, rain was obtained a few days afterwards. The memorialists therefore pray his Majesty to sanction the presentation of a memorial board to the temple, in recognition of the divine interposition manifested by the presiding deity.

May 13th.—(1) A decree in answer to a representation from the Censor Yü Lu, sanctioning the compilation of the official biography of Ying Han, late military Lieutenant-Governor of Urumtsi, by the State Historiographer's Office, and the erection of memorial temples to him at Fêng-yang, Show-chow, Suh-chow, Fu-yang, Mêng-ch'êng, and Wo-yang. Ying Han for many years exhibited his energy in the province of Anh'wei, and in his various successful operations against the *nienfei* in the years 1868 and 1869 acquired a fame and reputation that was assuredly well deserved. We grant the Censor's request.—Let the proper Board take note.

(2) A decree conferring the appointment of Warden of the Imperial parks, recently vacated by Ts'ing Lin, who was sent into servitude on the military post roads, upon Sung Küan 松瑔.

(3) Memorial from Kwang K'êh, Tartar General of Shênsi, reporting the receipt from the provincial treasury of Tls. 5,000 in silver and government bills for 12,715 strings of *cash* as an instalment of the arrears due to the troops under his command. This sum has been obtained in consequence of the urgent representations made to His Majesty by memorialist on the debilitated condition of the Manchu troops under his command, owing to want of the means of sustenance, which called forth a decree that had the desired effect, though the Governor declared himself sorely put to it to find funds in the present exhausted condition of the provincial exchequer. Including widows, orphans, and soldiers in receipt of pensions, 7,199 persons have to be provided for, and the receipt of these funds was like a new lease of life to them, for which they have to thank the Imperial bounty. The money has been distributed, and will help them to tide over their difficulties for a time. With so much distress and poverty prevailing amongst the troops, extra care and vigilance is required on the part of their officers, who have been instructed to keep them well in hand. The memorialist has written to the Governor to try and devise some means by which the troops may be extricated from their present condition of distress and supplies be forwarded with the regularity that the importance of the interests involved require. The present scale of pay is perfectly inadequate, and really not sufficient for the troops to live upon, but the question of augmentation must be left for better times.

(4) Wên Ko, Governor of Shantung, reports in a postscript memorial that he and his colleagues have raised by subscription the sums of Tls. 10,000 which has been sent to Honan, and a further contribution of Tls. 7,120 for Shansi, to which province and Shênsi they had before sent Tls. 32,880.

May 14th.—(Abstracts of Memorials,) Yên-hü reports the completion of the ceremonies attendant upon the restoration of the portraits of the "Sacred Ancestry" to their position in the Hall, and the installation of the portrait of His late Majesty.

(1) A Decree. Yuan Pao-hêng, Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, commenced his official career in the Hanlin College, and, some years since, gave repeated instances of his military prowess in operations against the *nienfei* in Kiangsu, Anhwei, and other provinces. After this he was employed in the grain transport

service in Shênsi, where his duties were conducted in an efficient and satisfactory manner. He had now been despatched to Honan to assist in the organisation of measures of relief, and had displayed a particular capacity for patient endurance, and conscientiousness in the performance of his work. The unexpected intelligence that he has passed away has moved Us with feelings of the profoundest pity, and We command that the highest marks of posthumous distinction that the law allots to Vice-Presidents of Boards be conferred upon him, and that all official penalties recorded against his name be withdrawn. The proper Yamên will ascertain what these honors should be and report to Us, and the Board of Civil Office will present his son Yuan She-hiung to Us at the expiration of his term of mourning.

(2) A decree conferring the following appointments:—Reader of the Han-lin College, Hing Lien 興廉. Expositor of the Han-lin College, Kwei Ngang 桂昂.

(3) A decree ordering a fresh series of intercessory services for rain, at the various State Temples, in which His Majesty will take a part. Copious and universal rain has been vouchsafed in the neighbourhood of the capital in answer to prayers offered on the 7th inst., but as yet no reports have arrived of rain having fallen in any quantity in Shansi, where the people are in such dire need of it.

(4) A memorial by the Censor Hü Shanghwa, on abuses in connection with palace expenditure, suggested by the decrees that have lately appeared on the subject. The efforts that Their Majesties are making to reduce expenditure within the palace, by reduction of meals and other means, have called forth the gratitude and respect of all Their Majesties' servants and subjects, from whom, on the other hand, the declaration by the Comptrollers of the Imperial Household of their inability to effect any economies, has provoked exclamation of regretful surprise. Since the commencement of the reign of T'ung-chih, when the enormous expenditure in connection with Yuan-ming-yuan (the Summer Palace) ceased to exist, it was the universal opinion that the expenses of the Imperial Household would be reduced by at least one-half. Instead of this being the case, however, the memorialist hears that the present annual expenditure is several times greater than that of the reigns of Tao-kwang and Hien-fêng. Careful enquiry as to the cause of this increase favours the supposition that it arises from an increase in the number of orders for special undertakings, but these, as shown in the reply of the officers of the Imperial Household, have not been indulged in for several years past. There can, therefore, be no doubt that it is to the officers of the Imperial Household themselves that the increase is attributable, and in spite of the second decree calling upon them to furnish a list of items, it is much to be feared that their greed and avarice will tempt them to suppress many and exaggerate others. Having already pointed out that the present annual expenditure exceeds that of the reign of Tao-kwang, the memorialist proceeds to discover the cause, and thinks he finds it in the exorbitant prices charged, which are greatly in excess of what they used to be. In addition to this, there is the so-called 20 or 30 per cent. discount on all transactions effected by this office, which, though denounced and prohibited some years since, is prosecuted with greater vigour than ever, in spite of the bonds the officers and others are called upon to sign. As an instance of the extent to which this system of discount is carried, the memorialist may state that he has heard that it is the practice to issue to persons calling for payment of money due by this department only Tls. 520 per Tls. 1,000. From this alone may be estimated the enormity of their illicit gains. In fact, for every Tls. 1,000 paid out, not more than Tls. 100 are actually expended upon the object for which they are nominally required. The whole body of officials connected with this office are in league, and are supported by many others who hope to obtain special contracts or employment, while any conscientious person who joins them must soon get contaminated by the example that is set him. The result is that they are, practically, perfectly unfettered, and carry on their frauds without restraint. As an instance of the profitable nature of a post in the Imperial Household, may be cited the case of Wên-hi and his son, who for over ten years monopolised the control of that office, and are now possessed of more than princely wealth. At the present time the Comptrollers of the Imperial Household and Secretaries of Department, who have the putting out of important contracts of work, never fa'l to obtain large fees from the persons who undertake them. An order was recently promulgated forbidding articles to be introduced for sale to the eunuchs. It is this office that is responsible for the extravagances pointed to, the

members of which, by a judicious expenditure of a thousand tales or so, can obtain employment that will bring them in annually many tens of thousands. It is impossible to say what those make who are lucky enough to be appointed to the Canton Customs, or the control of the Imperial manufactories. These appointments are not obtained for learning or scholarship, and what do the holders know of the duties of a Minister to his Sovereign? Thus it comes about that men worm their way upwards by base means, and have no idea beyond their private gain. Laws there are, no doubt, against appropriation of Imperial monies, but they fear them not, and the result is that as much is robbed by the office of the Imperial Household in a single year as would give life to millions of starving people. To check this organised system of robbery, the memorialist would, in the first place, concentrate the control of expenditure, and not allow too many people to have a voice, as they are likely mutually to encourage one another to acts of peculation. He would also appoint an auditor in chief of all accounts passing through this office, in the person of a prince or other member of the hereditary nobility. The eunuchs should be placed under the charge of one or two secretaries specially selected for integrity and firmness of character; and secretaries of department should neither be allowed to manage several matters at once, nor be appointed as "coadjutor" to others, which means, simply, increased opportunities for fraud. (For decree see *Gazette* of April 30th.)

May 15th.—(1) A decree conferring the following appointments consequent upon the death of Yuan Pao-hêng:—Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, Hwang Choh 黃倬 (transferred from the Board of Ceremonies.) Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies, Wang Wên-shao 王文韶, who will continue to perform the duties of acting Vice-President of the Board of War.

(2) Memorial by the Board of Civil Office in answer to the charges of a Censor, who accuses them of having made a man present his credentials and be gazetted to a post after he had actually died. The regulations lay down that nominees for selection to appointments shall present their credentials on the first day of the month previous to their selection, which shall take place on the 26th of the following moon, or 55 clear days afterwards. An exception, however, is made in the 1st moon, when candidates are allowed to present themselves at the "opening of the seals," or the resumption of the ordinary routine after the new year's vacation, instead of on the 1st of the month. This was the case with the individual in question, who was not, as the Censor seemed to imagine, represented in the following month by a substitute. Again, the Censor fails to understand why the man's death had not been reported by the 25th of the second moon, the day the drawings for provinces were held, that is, twenty-seven days after his decease, and imagines that the clerks held back the information in order to defer the appointment for another month, and thereby obtain a bribe from the candidate next on the list. Had the announcement of the man's death reached the Board on the 24th, the day before the drawing, the appointment would have been given to the candidate next on the list, but as a matter of fact it did not arrive until three days after the drawings had taken place. (See *Gazette* of 2nd May.)

May 16th.—(Abstracts of memorials.) Yên King-ming gives the particulars of a slight fall of rain they have been fortunate enough to obtain in Shansi. Rescript:—From the account of the memorialist it would appear that complete saturation has not yet been obtained. Our anxiety remains intense. Let the Governor and his colleague continue to offer up earnest prayers, in the hope that refreshing rain may descend, and let them at once report when more has fallen.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with an uninteresting memorial from the Governor of Kiangsi, in answer to a charge from the Censor Ngou Yang-yün, who declares that the cost of the periodical presents and birthday offerings to the higher officials of that province is distributed over the land and grain tax. The Governor denies the charge, and gives a long history of the successive rates of exchange and commutation tariffs that have been fixed by previous Governors, which, he asserts, have been faithfully adhered to. (For decree, summarising this memorial, see *Gazette* of 29th April.)

May 17th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Board of Works complaining of the non-payment of interest due by the province of Shantung. Of late years all that the Board have been able to obtain in response to repeated calls is a few thousand taels, which have been made to do duty for the large sums in arrear. The Governor is called upon to issue peremptory instructions to the Salt Commissioner to

make a rule henceforward to pay this interest yearly, irrespective of the amount of taxes obtained, and to forward it simultaneously in equal portions to the Board of Works and the Office of the Imperial Household. He is also directed to consider in what manner he will best be able to pay off arrears of this interest, and submit his proposals to the Throne.

(2) Memorial by T'ing Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szech'wan, requesting permission to arrest and imprison twelve officials, sub-prefects, magistrates and others, who have neglected to account for certain taxes due by them, and have failed to make them good within the time allotted. He proposes to ascertain by enquiry from their clerks and runners whether these monies have been appropriated or devoted to other purposes, and he will at the same time send officers secretly to their respective houses to confiscate their property and discover whether any hoards are secreted there.

(3) Postscript memorial by the same officer, stating that during the past year he has been at particular pains to observe the character and capabilities of the various department and district magistrates within his jurisdiction, whose duties, as custodians of the people and their homes, involve such important interests. He finds that the acting Magistrate of Ta-chuh, when sent last year to Kia-ting-fu to make enquiries respecting the amount of judicial arrears, displayed an utter want of self-respect, and made use of the underlings for purposes of extortion, obtaining with their aid some hundreds of taels. His arrogance and evil deeds have caused him to be avoided by his fellow magistrates, who are afraid to have any intercourse with him. Again, the magistrate of T'ai-p'ing was called upon last year to report on the condition of the crops within his jurisdiction, which in consequence of want of rain during the 6th and 7th moons, promised to be an utter failure, to promote subscriptions amongst the gentry for the purchase of grain to be sold at reduced rates, and take other precautionary measures. He was also directed to carry out the tithing system with vigour, and put a stop to the distilling of spirits. He reported in reply that the harvest had been a good one, and that there was no immediate necessity for the sale of grain at reduced rates. The Governor, having his suspicions, sent an officer to make enquiries, when he found that the harvest had been a failure, and the sale of grain at reduced rates was immediately required. The tithing system had never been prosecuted with any reality, and the only step taken by the magistrate in the direction of suppression of distilleries was to levy fines on his own account, inflicting as many as 1,000 blows upon those who resisted his extortions, which he professed to call "charitable contributions," though not a *cash* was expended in charity. This officer, too, the memorialist heard, celebrated his birthday notwithstanding the distress that prevailed, and levied "offerings" in all directions. The extortions practised by his underlings are so excessive that no one dare complain at the magistracy, even in cases of robbery and murder. The conduct of this man is detestable in the extreme, and the memorialist requests that he and the acting magistrate of Ta-chuh may at once be cashiered and proceeded against for extortion. They have already been sent for to the provincial capital, and shall be subjected to most rigorous and searching examination. (Decree already issued.)

May 18th.—(1) A Decree. The Censor Ts'ui Mu-che memorialises requesting that orders may be given for the arrest of certain despoilers of graves. He states that in the public burying ground attached to the west Shansi club, situated within the Kwang-an gate of the city of Peking, coffins which have been temporarily deposited there awaiting removal have been unearthed and broken open on five or six occasions since last winter. Such acts of unbridled lawlessness can never be permitted within the Imperial precincts. Let the office of Gendarmerie, the Governor of Shun-t'ien, and the metropolitan Censors make every effort for the arrest and punishment of the offenders. Any attempt at suppression of facts, or carelessness on the part of the police of the locality in question, must be treated with uncompromising severity.

(2-3) Decrees conferring the following appointments :—Supervising Censor and keeper of the Seal, Board of Ceremonies, Ma Hiang-ju 馬相如. Chief Supervisor, Imperial Supervisorate of Instruction, Hü Che-hiang 徐致詳.

(4) T'an Chung-lin Governor of Shênsi, reports the trial and execution of a man who murdered three members of a household, and attempted the life of a fourth. Ma Shêng-che a labourer, who hired himself out to work, was on friendly terms with one Hü Lao-êrh, a native of Yung-show-hien, from whom he often borrowed money and seldom paid it back. At the

close of the year 1876, Ma Shêng-che hired himself out to a man called Wang Ch'ao-kin, and when he got an opportunity, used to sport with his employer's wife and act improperly with her unbeknown to her husband. At the end of six months or so, he suggested to the woman that they could prosecute their amours with more freedom if she ran away with him. The woman consented, and they eloped, baffling all attempts at discovery of their whereabouts by the injured husband. A month later, Ma Shêng-che went to see his old friend Hü Lao-êrh, and get a little money out of him. Hü Lao-êrh, who knew that he had carried off Wang Ch'ao-kin's wife, began to abuse him directly he saw him, and told him not to come near the place again. Ma Shêng-she reproached him with want of friendliness, whereupon Hü Lao-erh got angry, declared he would let Wang know that he was there, and get him sent to prison; he also demanded payment of the sums that Ma owed him. A quarrel ensued, which was stopped by Hü's wife, who got him to go to bed, and herself retired to rest with her two boys in a separate cupboard or recess, Ma lying down to sleep by the counter of Hü's shop. In the middle of the night, still brooding over Hü Lao-êrh's refusal to lend him money, and fearful lest he should fulfil his threat of letting Wang know where he was, he came to the conclusion that he would kill Hü, to satisfy his vengeance and remove a source of danger. The moon had not yet set, and, aided by its light, he crept stealthily to the sleeping man's side, having first possessed himself of a hoe that was lying to hand, with which he struck Hü on the head, wounding him on the mouth and jaw, and, as he could not pull out the hoe, which had imbedded itself in the bone, he despatched his victim, who had awoke and was screaming, with a long handled knife. The wife, who was awakened by her husband's screams, opened the door and cried out to know what was the matter, whereupon Ma Shêng-che, bethought himself that the mother and children might give information to the authorities, and determined to kill them also. With this intent he pursued the woman, and cut her over the head with his knife. She tried to get it from him, when he wounded her in the arm and wrist, cutting off her little finger. The woman then turned and ran, pursued by Ma, who again struck her to the ground. Guided by the light of the lamp burning in her room, he exchanged his weapon for a sickle that was lying on the counter, with which he stabbed his victim and left her, as he thought, dead. Turning next to the little boys, who were awake and crying on their bed with fright, he struck one of them on the shoulder with his knife, whereupon the other jumped up and ran off crying for help. He was pursued by the murderer and cut down, and while he was writhing on the ground was stabbed repeatedly in the face and neck until he died. Ma then returned to the other child and despatched him, after which he ran away. The woman was not dead, but she was unable to move, and lay where she fell until the next morning when she was discovered by a neighbour, who communicated with her father-in-law, and he took charge of her and nursed her, reporting the outrage at the same time to the authorities, who succeeded in arresting the murderer. The case was, as usual, tried by the Prefect, and by him passed on to the Judge, who in turn sent the prisoner up to the Governor. His guilt having been clearly established, the standing Imperial death warrant was put in force, and the man led forth bound to a public place where he was executed by the "slicing process." His paramour, who would have been punished by the infliction of a certain number of blows, followed by banishment, died at the inn at which she was staying. The woman Hü has since recovered from her injuries. —Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.

(5) The Governor of Szech'wan reports the execution by *ling-ch'e* of a lunatic who murdered his mother during a paroxysm of madness.

May 19th.—(Abstracts of memorials.) Shên Pao-chêng reports the result of the economies he has effected, in obedience to orders in connection with the Treasury of the Intendant of Circuit. Rescript: Let this sum of Tls. 56,000 be forwarded at once to Li Hung-chang for transmission to Honan and Shansi. With respect to his proposals that economies yearly effected in the grain transport service by river be forwarded to the Board, let the Board of Revenue consider the matter and report thereon.

(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Li Hoh-nien, Governor of Honan, conferring honorary distinctions upon five district Magistrates who have displayed unusual zeal and energy in the execution of relief measures.

(2) A decree in answer to the same memorialist, acceding to a request that An-yang and other districts on the outskirts of the famine region, where the harvests have been exceedingly scanty, and the

people are in great distress, may be provided with a month's rations. Care must be taken in the distribution of this charity, that the sufferers may obtain the full benefit thereof.

(3) Memorial by Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Liang-kiang, requesting that the official biography of Li Lien-hiu, formerly Director of the Grand Court of Revision, may be prepared by the State Historiographer's Office. For many years an institution had existed at Nanking for the prosecution of studies by advanced scholars, to which provincial graduates, senior licentiates, and others had access, irrespective of their place of birth, known by the name of the "Chung-shan" college. Another college called the "Hi-yin," in which more particular attention was devoted to the study of the canonical books, verse composition, and the writing of essays, was afterwards established by T'ao Shuh, a former Governor-General. On the recapture of Nanking from the rebels, Ts'êng Kwoh-fan, who was then Governor-General, set to work to engage Presidents for these two colleges, and, in 1864, secured the services of Li Lien-hiu as president of the "Chung-shan" college, with supervisionary authority over the other institution. During his incumbency, which lasted until his death in February last, a period of 14 years, he devoted all his energies to the advancement of sound learning, and opened the door of understanding to many with infinite labour and pains, stimulating diligence and conspicuous talent by the bestowal of rewards that were by no means small. The Lieutenant-Governor and a number of his pupils having now collected and tabulated a record of his life, have petitioned the Governor-General to pray His Majesty to sanction the compilation of his official biography. In endorsing this petition, the memorialist gives a short sketch of the career of the man for whom the honor is solicited. Born of a wealthy and distinguished family, being the youngest son of Li Tsung-han, late Vice-President of the Board of Works, Li Lien-hiu devoted himself to solitary study from his earliest youth, pursuing it with an energy and avidity that might be looked for in a poor and indigent scholar rather than the scion of a wealthy house. He obtained the degree of *kin-she*, or metropolitan graduate, in the year 1846, and at the general examination for officers of the Han-lin College and Supervisorate of Instruction, His Majesty the Emperor Hien Fêng, recognising his talents, placed him at the head of the list of the first grade, and offered him the post of Expositor. From this time forward he was continually employed in the cause of education. His first appointment was the Literary Chancellorship of Fuhkien, where he is to this day spoken of in terms of admiration. He was then removed to Kiangsu, where his arrival was the signal for the revival of a literary spirit, though the province was plunged in active hostilities. On his appointment to the post of Director of the Court of Revision, he was enfeebled by sickness, and applied for permission to retire in the year 1859. He was then only forty years of age, and as he had held a literary appointment, he felt that in the advancement of learning lay his duty to his country, for the neglect of which sickness could not be made a pretext. (Decree already issued.)

(4) Tso Tsung-t'ang, in a postscript memorial, requests permission to cashier a Colonel in the army, who had been dismissed from his regiment, and has been employing his leisure time in forging bank notes, the proceeds from the disposal of which he expended in gambling and debauchery. The Governor-General proposes to send him back to his native place, and put him under the charge of persons who will become security for his future good behaviour. (Granted by rescript.)

May 20th.—(1) A decree based on a memorial from Li Hoh-nien, Acting-Governor of Honan, sanctioning the entry of a temple to Fuh Tsung-lung, a statesman of the Ming dynasty, upon the list of those at which the officials are to offer periodical libations, and consenting to the issue to this temple of a memorial board. The spirit of the deceased statesman has manifested itself in a marked manner on several occasions, when rebels have threatened the district town in which the temple is situated, and has more than once interposed when prayers have been offered for rain.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials that have already been summarised in decrees earlier published.

May 21st.—(1) A Decree. Wên Koh memorialises that he has personally inspected the northern and southern embankments of the Yellow River, as well as the northern and southern sluices by which access is gained to the Grand Canal, and submits a report of his survey with the steps he proposes to take in connection therewith. He has, by means of this survey, arrived at an intelligent perception of the condition of the Yellow River embankments and the two canal sluices, and

he states that the stone weir, of over a *li* in length, that Li Yuan-hwa obtained permission to construct during his incumbency of the Acting Governorship, is not yet completed, and that the gates cannot be said to open or close with any power. The repairs to embankments effected last year are miserably inadequate, and he proposes to fall back upon the earthwork erected by the people, and to convert it into a small dyke, the work to be spread over a certain number of years, and Government assistance afforded. The new embankment constructed on the southern shore is very weak, and the proposals to dredge the P'uh Chow and Fan Hien channels leading out of the Yellow River, and amalgamate their waters, constructing at the same time a small dyke to the north of the south embankment and south of the river, are both attended with difficulty. The control of the waters of the Yellow River and improvement of the canal communication are dependent one upon the other, and should be undertaken simultaneously. Wên Koh recommends the abolition of Li Yuan-hwa's scheme for constructing dykes close on the river side, on the ground of impracticability. Inasmuch, however, as over Tls. 270,000 have been sunk in the undertaking, it would be inexpedient to abandon it in its present stage. We sanction the proposals of the Governor with regard to the transfer of soldiers and labourers employed in the embankment service from the north to the south side of the river, to assist in repairing the more important points; the immediate repairs of the breaches at Show Chow and Chang Kia-kou, which will in the first instance be temporarily effected by the use of millet stalks and earth, to be replaced by more permanent materials after the spring freshets have gone by; the dredging of the canal as a temporary measure to enable the empty grain junks to be floated over on their return journey, etc., etc. He will give positive instructions to the officials entrusted with the protection of river embankments to carry out all repairs the moment they are needed, and in case of impending danger all troops whatsoever are to be available for service, and are to be called on to assist in averting peril. The estimates and measurements for repairs to embankments given by Li Yuan-hwa, based upon the report of Ma Ying-kw'ei, prefect of Ts'ao Chow, and that of the officer deputed to make a survey by Wên Koh, differ very considerably, and the former appears to have left no drafts of the items of expenditure reported by him. This is a most irregular proceeding. Let the Board of Civil Office call upon Li Yuan-hwa to proceed with all despatch to Shantung to produce his drafts and furnish accurate accounts. Ma Ying-kw'ei, his agent, is now in Szech'wan,; let Ting Pao-chêng direct him to proceed at once to Shantung, that the matter may be thoroughly investigated. Should the enquiry lead to the detection of fraud or imposition of any kind, the guilty parties are to be unsparingly denounced by the Governor, and their illicit gains recovered from them.

(2) A decree appointing Liu Jui-fên 劉瑞芬 to the post of Taotai at Shanghai.

(3) Memorial by the Governor of Shênsi reporting that the greater portion of the province has been visited with showers of rain, varying from one or two inches to complete saturation, since the end of March, the date of last report. In the prefectures of Hing-an, Han-chung, and Shang-chow, and the country of the south of Hi-an and the Wei River, the wheat crop is in a flourishing condition and a good harvest may be anticipated. Wheat and beans have now been sown to the north of the river, and the young shoots having already appeared, may be expected to come on after the recent rains and yield sufficient to meet the distress. Farmers are now busy getting in miscellaneous cereals, which may be expected to be gathered in by the 6th or 7th moon in sufficient quantities to keep up supplies. The land is now in a moist condition, and a general feeling of satisfaction and tranquillity prevails, to a degree that will enable Their Majesties to dispense with all further solicitude. The price of grain in the provincial capital has slightly fallen, wheat now selling for Tls. 7 odd per picul. The price of rice has greatly diminished, and holders of stock are not likely to keep it back any longer.—Rescript: We have perused the memorial with pleasure. Let any reports of further rainfall that may be received be promptly communicated, that Our anxiety may be relieved.

May 22nd.—(Abstracts of memorials.) Ming Ch'un reports the safe arrival at Hami of the Princess Pêsir. (See *Gazette* of March 9th.—Tu Jui-lien, Acting-Governor of Yünnan, recommends Chuh Yi-k'üan for the post of prefect of Ta-li.—Rescript: The Board have already selected Teng Hwa-hi.

(1) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, reporting that rain

had fallen on the 9th, 10th, 11th, 15th and 16th May at the capital and in the south-east of the province, and that it is now possible to proceed with the sowing of the crops. Memorial boards are to be issued to various temples at which the divine interposition was manifested in answer to prayers offered by the Governor. He, and his colleague the Famine Commissioner, are to continue to carry out their relief measures with unabated vigour, and at once to collect large quantities of seed corn for distribution amongst the people.

(2) A decree appointing Ch'ung-shan 崇善 to the post of Intendant of the She-tung circuit in Yünnan.

(3) Memorial by Pao-t'ing, Imperial Clansman and Tutor of the Imperial Academy submitting a proposal for the organisation of a system of loans to be applied to the relief of the sufferers by famine. With an area so extensive as that now suffering from famine, large sums are required for relief. Not only is local charity unable to cope with it, but aid from adjoining provinces and unsparing appropriations of grain and money from the Imperial exchequer are insufficient to provide for distress that would absorb much more than the whole contents of the Imperial granaries and treasuries. Appeal to public charity is, no doubt, a means of meeting distress, but there is a limit to charity, which must be reached after repeated appeals. In the opinion of memorialist, invitations to give are not so likely to be attended with success as invitations to lend. In the one case money is paid out never to return, and this only the liberal and generous will do. In the other, it does return, doing good to others the while, and no harm to self, so that even the niggardly and parsimonious can be prevailed upon to come forward. The memorialist would suggest the adoption of a system similar to that proposed by Kiang Yin in the 18th year of the reign of K'ang Hi, under which each district was to raise its own loan for charitable purposes, to be repaid out of the land tax, and, as it would be inexpedient for officials to borrow money at interest from the people, honorary rewards were to be bestowed in lieu of interest. Thus, the wealthy man lends money for the aid of the poor in his own district, which is repaid out of the land tax of the same district. So simple and advantageous a system will surely work with ease? It may be argued by some that the majority of wealthy men are niggardly, and are by no means certain to care to lend. Are they not aware that numbers of refugees and wanderers are dying from want on every side, and pillage and robbery is constantly to be apprehended? It is the rich man that has to fear, and he will gladly give in order to secure quiet amongst the indigent. And, if he will give to this object, how much more gladly will he lend, when he has in addition the stimulus of honorary rewards? Others again may object that if officials borrow from people, pressure will in the first instance be brought to bear upon the latter, and when the time for repayment comes, there will inevitably be delays and deductions. In reply, memorialist would humbly submit that every system must have its abuses, but the remedy lies in the severity of the precautions against them. The amount required is too large to admit of the organisation of a general scheme for the whole province; it will be better that each district should organise its own loan, for no matter how poverty-stricken and small any particular one may be, it is sure not to be utterly devoid of wealthy people. All that is required is energetic exhortation on the part of the local officials, and vigorous supervision on the part of their superiors. Should any district contain any particularly wealthy families, the Magistrate might report the fact to the Governor-General or Governor, who could depute an officer to visit them, and in the event of a large loan being obtained, the Lieutenant-Governor should reward the officer, and apply for the bestowal of honorary distinction upon him. The memorialist begs to submit the following code of regulations in connection with his scheme:—

1.—Issue of bonds. The bonds shall be issued by the Lieutenant-Governor, and shall be for Tls. 10,000, Tls. 1,000, and Tls. 100 respectively. Each bond shall bear the Treasurer's stamp, and a guarantee to repay the whole amount in ten years shall be entered thereon. On payment falling due, it shall immediately be made, and, the amount to be repaid annually having been fixed, it shall be paid promptly and in full. Grain shall be accepted in lieu of money, and the current value thereof entered on the bond. The name of the person through whose agency the loan has been effected shall also be entered on the bond, for purposes of reference; and each magistracy shall be supplied with five bonds of the first denomination, forty of the second, and one hundred of the third. When issued to borrowers they shall be stamped with the Magistrate's seal, and

if the number supplied be insufficient, more shall be applied for. Any not used shall be returned to the Lieutenant-Governor.

2.—Several of the most respectable amongst the notables of each district shall be selected to superintend operations and canvass for subscriptions. No compulsion shall be used, even in the case of the wealthiest people. The issue of bonds, receipt of money, and all matters connected with the loan, shall be left in the hands of the notables aforesaid, that clerks and underlings may not have a hand therein.

3.—As the loan is one from people to officials, it is inexpedient that it should bear interest. Upon holders of bonds for a small amount, memorial boards shall be bestowed; for holders of bonds for larger amounts honorary distinctions shall be applied for. When the total amount of loans obtained in any district reaches Tls. 10,000, the Magistrate shall be advanced one degree in honorary rank; and in the event of the amount reaching Tls. 100,000, the highest marks of honorary distinction shall be applied for on his behalf. The same system shall be adopted in the case of notables who have been instrumental in obtaining purchasers.

4.—A return of the numbers of bonds issued, the names of the purchasers, and the amount to be repaid annually, shall be sent to the Lieutenant-Governor by each Magistrate, as well as to the Toatai and Prefect under whose orders he happens to be.

5.—All bonds, irrespective of their amount, shall be paid off in full within ten years, and the annual instalment shall be paid three days before the shutting up of the seals at the end of the year. Bondholders shall present themselves at the magistracy with the notable who induced them to purchase, and shall receive their instalment from the hands of the Magistrate. No deductions shall be allowed or extensions of time permitted, and the amount of each instalment shall be endorsed upon the bonds, which shall be returned to the Magistrate at the end of ten years, when all the instalments have been paid, for transmission to the Lieutenant-Governor. Each Magistrate shall deduct beforehand from his land tax the amount of the instalments to be paid at the end of the year, and it shall not be hypothecated for any purpose no matter how urgent it may be. Neglect of this rule shall be punished in the same manner as fraudulent appropriation of relief funds.

The memorialist claims no particular merit for the above scheme, the outcome of his feeble imagination, but it appears to him, poor as it no doubt is, to be the only practicable plan now that gratuitous contribution has been well-nigh exhausted, Granted that it is an expedient, and may not prove eminently successful; it is at least better than sitting still and with folded hands watching the people perish. Some may urge that the land tax is not lightly to be meddled with. Let them know that the land tax is dependent on the existence of the people. If they disappear the land becomes barren, and then where is the land tax? Memorialist feels sure that Their Majesties would gladly contribute ten years' land taxes to save the lives of ten millions of Their people. He prays therefore that the Governor-General of Chihli and the Governors of Shansi and Honan may be directed immediately to consider the practicability of his scheme. (For decree see *Gazette* of 3rd May.

May 23rd.—(1) A decree ordaining a series of thanks-giving services at the various State temples as an expression of gratitude to Heaven for the bounteous rain that has been vouchsafed to the northern provinces. The Emperor will proceed in person to the Ta Kao Tien. The altars at the Ta Kao Tien, Kio Sheng Sze, and Heh Lung T'an are to be taken down, and the Buddhist and Taoist priests who have been engaged in the recital of prayers are to be rewarded with presents of money by the office of the Imperial Household, as is also the Tungkh or 'Hut'ukt'u, and his company of Lamas.

(2) A decree conferring a fresh title upon the Dragon Spirit of Han-tan Hien, in whose temple is the well in which the iron tablet is deposited. This spirit has time after time manifested itself in answer to prayer, and has repeatedly been invested with titles of honor. In consequence of the drought that has this year prevailed in the northern provinces, the iron tablet was again applied for and reverently placed in the Ta Kao Tien, where prayers were offered up before it. First, the province of Chihli, then Honan, and, finally, Shansi, have all been visited with rain in sufficient quantities. Our gratitude is indeed profound, and We ordain that the Dragon Spirit shall be invested with the additional title of "The Dragon Spirit of the Sacred Well, that hath manifested its divine power in answer to prayer, and rendered important aid." Let the Officers of the Hanlin and the Imperial College of Inscriptions reverently prepare a memorial board, and send it to

Li Hung-chang for transmission to Han-tau Hien.

(3) A decree appointing Kwang-show to superintend repairs at the Pu' T'o Yüh, the Mausoleum prepared for the Senior Empress Regent.

(4) Memorial by Li Hoh-nien and Yuan Pao-hêng, Acting-Governor and Famine Commissioner of Honan respectively, requesting permission for the extension of the regulations governing the sale of rank and titles in order to provide funds for relief, permission for the establishment of which, with branch offices in Anhwei and Kiangsu, was granted by Imperial decree. Permission to avail themselves of these offices was extended by the Board to the three denominations of Intendants, Prefects, Sub-Prefects, and Magistrates in possession of actual rank; that is to say, those absolutely, first on the list for employment, those first on the list, and those who await their turn. The memorialists now request that the privilege of availing themselves of these agencies may, as is the case in Shansi, be extended to all Assistant Magistrates in actual employment in the capital and the provinces, as well as those who have been nominated to a province to await employment. They further suggest that minor officials shall be allowed to purchase immunity from transfer or promotion to another post, as well as from the necessity of being obliged to go to Peking for presentation to his Majesty at the expiration of their term of service; and, lastly, that certain modifications may be made in the rules regarding the purchase of the rank of Inspector of the Salt Department.—Referred to the Board.

(5) Ming-an, Military Governor of Kirin, reports that the warm weather having now arrived, he has despatched various companies of troops on expeditions amongst the hills in search of banditti. Similar expeditions will, as is annually the custom, set out from Ningutá, Sansing, etc. During the temporary absence of troops on this service, patrol arrangements will be discontinued. The numerous prohibitions against gold hunting and cattle lifting among the hills have been utterly set at nought, and such large numbers are engaged in these pursuits, that it would be dangerous to deal with them in a wholesale manner. The leaders of these expeditions, therefore, have been instructed to confine their attention to the suppression of brigandage and pacification of the people, that the former may be rooted out and the well disposed secured from molestation.

(6) Postscript memorial from Shên Pao-chêng proposing, in the interests of economy, the abolition of military examinations, on the ground that they are not a test of military ability. The cost of these examinations is a heavy burden on each district, and by their abolition a great saving would be effected. If the abolition were made general throughout the Empire, several tens of thousands of taels could be saved on each set of examinations. Actual service is more likely to develop military talent than these examinations, which turn out a number of useless officials who stay at home with nothing to do, and for the majority of whom nothing can be found to do. (For decree see *Gazette* of May 5th.)

May 24th.—(1) A decree expressing regret at the intelligence of the death of Pao-shan, Assistant Chamberlain, who had been sent to offer a funeral libation to a Mongol chieftain, and died at the 17th station outside the Great Wall on his way thither. The posthumous honors allotted by law to Assistant Chamberlains are to be conferred upon him, and all official penalties recorded against his name are to be withdrawn. K'i Hiu, his coadjutor, is to proceed on the mission that was delayed by the death of Pao-shan, without another companion.

(2) A Decree. Ch'ung How reports that he has enquired into the general particulars of certain charges upon which Jung Yü, a Manchu captain, was denounced. Ch'ung How has ascertained that although there is no absolute proof that Jung Yü actually altered a draft without authority to do so, took discount off the price of horses purchased, and gave and received congratulatory presents, there is nevertheless foundation for these charges, as well as that he attempted to borrow money from another captain and did not exercise proper supervision over his following, insomuch that by their extortions and fraud they brought his name into disrepute. We command that Jung Yü be deprived of rank and placed upon his trial.

(3) Wên Koh, Governor of Shantung, in a postscript memorial acknowledges the receipt of the incense which His Majesty is pleased to send every year to be offered by the Governor or one of the members of the provincial Government at the annual sacrifice on the 18th of the 4th moon to the T'ai-shan, or sacred mountain. The memorialist, having just returned from a tour of inspection along the river works, had a large amount of arrears of work to attend to, which prevented him from offering the sacrifice in person. The acting Lieutenant-Governor was also busy getting in his

taxes, so the acting Judge was sent to offer sacrifice, and reverently present His Majesty's offering.

(4) Shên Pao-chêng reports, with reference to a circular letter of instructions from the Board, calling upon provincial Governments to report annually in a special memorial the amount of economies they have been enabled to effect, that by the exercise of rigid economy in the expenses connected with the grain transport service, he has been enabled to effect savings that will amount on an average to Tls. 20,000 per annum. He now proposes to forward this sum, and Tls. 30,000, the balance of accumulations of funds connected with the Tuh-chow granaries, to Tientsin, for distribution in Shansi and Honan. He proposes to entrust the money to Sung Ch'un, who is going to Tientsin to superintend the transhipment of the tribute rice. The obstructions caused by the silting up of the Grand Canal become daily greater, and at the present moment not only do the dry places in the eastern portion of the Canal render transport perfectly impossible, but the sources which feed its waters in the prefectures of P'i-chow and Su-chow in the more immediate vicinity of Nanking, are interrupted, and there is every reason to doubt whether the tribute could have started yet, if memorialist had been compelled to send it by Canal. His Majesty, however, having been graciously pleased to allow it to be sent forward by steamer, it will now arrive within the appointed time. In the matter of expense alone, the advantage is considerable ; for although Tls. 20,000 may not be considered a large sum, in course of years the accumulations will mount up to a large figure. Again, if the province of Shantung is relieved from the necessity of employing the Yellow River as a means of transport, there will be no occasion for periodical dredging of the Grand Canal, and not only will a large saving on dredging expenses be effected, but distribution of the water supply will be greatly facilitated. If His Majesty will sanction [the abolition of the grain transport by Canal], the Grain Intendant's Yamên will be able to return the Board of Revenue Tls. 20,000 per annum.—Rescript: Let this sum of Tls. 56,000 be entrusted to Sung Ch'un, who will deliver it to Li Hung-chang for distribution in Shansi and Honan. Let the Board of Revenue consider and report on his proposal to forward to them annually the economies effected on the grain transport service by river.

May 25th.—(1) A decree ordering Wên Koh, Governor of Shantung, to proceed to the T'ai-shan mountain and reverently offer incense in token of gratitude for the rain that has been bestowed upon the northern provinces.

(2) A decree, in answer to the Supervising Censor Kwoh Tsung-kü, praying that Their Majesties will display their gratitude to Heaven for its recent manifestations in answer to prayer, by redoubled efforts in the maintenance of a reverential attitude. Their Majesties the Empresses, in their solicitude for the condition of the people during the terrible drought that has recently prevailed, have been enabled by earnest and heartfelt prayer to move the Heavenly powers to send abundance of grateful rain. Nevertheless, the distress continues extreme ; those who are dead cannot be brought to life again, and the living have nowhere that they may turn for food. Although the larger tracts of arable land have been sown with corn, the time of harvest is still far distant, and as in the future the succession of fine and rainy weather cannot be foretold, there will be continued anxiety in the penetralia. How could We venture then to relax Our attitude of reverential awe because the heart of Heaven has now been moved? Moreover, of late high winds have been prevalent, and the sun is red with the sand that is raised, a standing warning in the vault of Heaven that Our attitude of reverential fear must be increased in its intensity. Do you Ministers and Officers then, metropolitan and provincial, reverently identifying yourselves with the spirit of increasing care and watchfulness that prevails at the Court, each and all perform your duties with diligence and care, hoping thereby to aid in the general effort for deliverance from the bondage of these evil times. Let Kwoh Tsung-kü's memorial be placed in the Yüh Ts'ing-kung that We may be enabled to refresh Our memory by [constant] perusal thereof.

(3) Memorial by Yên King-ming, Famine Commissioner in Shansi, and Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of the same province, denouncing the sub-prefect of Ki-chow, and other minor officials, for fraud in connection with the distribution and collection of famine relief funds.

(4) Postscript memorial by the same officers, reporting that their prayers for rain having repeatedly proved ineffectual, they at last sent an officer to Han-tan Hien to procure one of the iron tablets, and rain was obtained shortly after its arrival. Hardly enough, however, had fallen to warrant the sowing of the crops, which will require complete saturation of the soil, and

the memorialists purpose to continue their devotions morning and evening until a further downfall is vouchsafed.—Rescript: From memorialists' report it would appear that the rainfall does not amount to a complete saturation, and Our anxiety, therefore, continues. Let them diligently continue their supplications for rain, and promptly report to Us when further showers are obtained.

May 26th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial by K'o She-pu, Supervising Censor of the western division of the metropolitan circuit, and others, requesting a Police Magistrate, who was some time since deprived of rank for his neglect of precautions against burglary, may now have his button restored to him and be rewarded with an honorary distinction, as he has succeeded in capturing a number of burglars. The application is granted, as the Magistrate seems to have testified, by his recent exertions, shame and contrition for his previous inaction.

(2) A Decree. Wang Wên-shao, memorialises requesting Us of Our goodness to bestow two months' leave of absence upon him, in order that he may meet his mother and bring her to Peking. We grant him the two months' leave that he may fetch his mother and minister to her. Tung Hwa will act as Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies, in addition to his present duties, during the absence of Wang Wên-shao; and K'i She-chang will act temporarily as Vice-President of the Board of War.

(3) The Prince of Kung and members of the Tsung-li Yamên, in a postscript memorial, forward their biennial list of secretaries recommended for the bestowal of marks of Imperial approbation on account of meritorious services. In March, 1870, when the Board of Civil Office obtained permission to restrict the number of recommendations of this nature, eighteen was the number to which the memorialists were limited. As the present year is the one in which recommendations should be sent in, they submit their list accordingly, and, it having been their practice for some years past to send in simultaneously with the above recommendations a list of the names of the proctors and other officers charged with the supervision of studies in the *T'ung-wên-kwan*, or college for the study of foreign science and languages, who have shown themselves worthy of commendation, they now beg to submit this list also. During the two years which this period embraces, more than double the usual amount of work has been caused by the discussions attending the revision of the German and Russian Treaties, and the disputes in connection with Cuban contract emigration, as well as other matters of a similar nature. The memorialists have been enabled with the assistance of these secretaries, who have never failed to be punctual and regular in their attendance when their turn of duty came, to dispose of all questions with promptitude and success. Being limited as to number, they have endeavoured to select eighteen of the more particularly deserving of their secretaries, and three proctors from the *T'ung-wên-kwan*. They have omitted from this list the name of Chief Secretaries Wên Hwei Hung Hü and Shu Wên, whose efforts are particularly deserving of commendation, and also that of T'an Kin-shao, whose duties have been performed with energy, as these officers have themselves represented that His Majesty having been graciously pleased to cause their names to be recorded for special employment, they would not venture to solicit the bestowal of honorary distiction in addition to the honor that has been paid them. The names of those also have been omitted whose terms of service are comparatively short, which will be brought forward on the next occasion. Lastly, the memorialists feel it their duty to commend the services of eight Council Secretaries, who have satisfactorily executed certain duties that have been entrusted to them by memorialists.—Approved by rescript.

May 27th.—(Court Circular.) The Prince of Tun and others return thanks for presents of crape gauze.

(1) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, kneeling addresses the Throne, representing that, as he was on the point of starting on his return to Fuhkien, he suddenly suffered a relapse, and it will be impossible for him to cancel his leave at the expiration of the time allowed to him. He therefore repeats his prayer that Your Majesty of Your goodness will still be pleased to grant him permission to vacate his post, that he may be enabled to attend to the cure of his maladies. He reverently implores the Sacred Glance upon his memorial, respectfully setting forth the circumstances of his case. Your servant would humbly observe that, some time since, being fettered and hampered by ailments which he could not shake off, he was dosed with strong emetics by some doctors, who declared that this would eradicate the disease; others said that the swelling in his feet demanded outward treatment by

acupuncture and cauterisation simultaneously with the administration of internal remedies to check the diarrhœa and get the moisture out of his system, by which means a rapid improvement might be anticipated. Your servant, being impatient of recovery, had no resource but to submit himself to the doctors to do what they would with him, and at first a certain improvement was manifested, to such an extent that he was able to walk with the aid of a staff in the month of March, and he ventured to hope that he would be enabled to cancel his leave by the appointed time. Hearing in the meantime that those in the "Inner Places" were devising measures of relief with eager and unwearying solicitude, in consequence of the drought that prevailed in the northern provinces, Your servant, too, in this place, could not but zealously institute measures of a similar nature. Contrary to anticipation, the mental exertion attendant thereon caused the places in which his right foot was punctured to swell and suppurate, emitting a copious discharge of blood and matter daily, which brought on vomiting of blood, loss of appetite, and various other complications at one and the same time. The doctor for internal treatment was changed, and the new one pronounced another opinion, declaring that the treatment by strong emetics and drastic purgatives had seriously injured the spleen, and that this, added to indulgence in too great mental exertion, had resulted in injury to the system; that the spleen, or earth element of the system, had been predominated over by the liver, or wood element; and that miasmatic and damp humours had entered the vitals, rendering the use of purgatives impossible and that of tonics inadvisable. Without, therefore, absolute quiet and rest for one or two years, accompanied by the use of mild dissolvent remedies, there was no possibility of improvement. Your servant's first impulse was to set out with his maladies upon him, but his strength was not equal to the task, and in all his movements he had to be assisted and supported by attendants. He would humbly submit that the presence of other maladies might, perhaps, be disguised or concealed; but the fact of being unable to walk is visible to all, and if Your servant were to enter upon his duties, he would have, at the commencement at least, to be supported by several men, and the spectacle thereby presented to the clerks and the people in his jurisdiction would create feelings of contempt and amusement in their minds, and then how would it be possible to exact obedience from them? In such troubled times as these, Your servant doubts his ability to acquit himself properly of his duties even were he in the possession of full bodily vigor, and if, reluctant to relinquish his post, he were, with shame-faced look, to bring to his work a body broken down with a hundred complaints, he truly fears that the public business would be neglected and suffer thereby. He humbly ventures to think that Fuhkien is a district of great importance, wherein it would be utterly wrong that a post should be long kept open awaiting an occupant, and even supposing that the Sacred Master should treat him with extra consideration, Your servant could not possibly reconcile it with his conscience [to accept a prolongation of his leave.] Moreover, his malady is a fitful one, and it will be impossible for him to report himself as ready for duty in two or three months, so that, after careful and repeated thought, with a heart burning with impatience and vexation, he is of necessity compelled with prostrate head once more to appeal to the Heavenly bounty for permission to vacate his post. Thus will Your servant be spared the anxiety of divided interests, and will be able during this period of tranquillity along the coast, when everything is quiet as regards the Formosan barbarians, to attend to his maladies with an untroubled and peaceful mind. As soon as he is enabled to walk with any facility by the aid of a staff, it will be his duty to go where he is commanded. Though he be called upon to pass through boiling water, fire, or pestilence, to voyage on the sea, or dwell in savage wilds or barren wastes, he will not shrink from the path of duty nor recoil from difficulties and obstructions. Your servant is fond of occupation, and although he is now on leave at his native place, he can still attend to the raising of contributions. He has moreover established an emigration agency at Swatow, for the engagement of labourers to cultivate and open up the mountain ranges at the back of Formosa. Your servant is not a man to seek retirement of his own free will, when from the very crown of his head to the sole of his foot he is indebted for life giving bounty to his Sacred Master's exceeding love, bounty high as Heaven and deep as earth, far surpassing the care of father or of mother. Never would he venture to harbour a thought of retirement were it not, unfortunately, that his right foot began to swell and suppurate to an extent that prevented his wearing stocking or

shoe, just as he was contemplating starting on his return journey. Thus, from no fault of his own, is Your servant precluded from an early display of gratitude to his master even such as a dog or a horse might show. The doctors all declare that if Your servant does not vacate his post and give undivided attention to the care of his health, in his impatience for recovery the remedies applied will be miscellaneous, and the effect most certainly abortive. Under these circumstances, with his spleen exposed and the water of his liver poured out, he presents himself before his paternal Sovereign, whom he prays of His extreme goodness to permit him to vacate his post, in order that he may watch the effect of his treatment with undivided attention. Then will the burden of his sickness be speedily removed, at the most in a year or so, at the least in twelve months, when each day that he lives he will work out his debt of gratitude. While he remains at his native place, he will always be ready to give loyal and sincere advice to the Governor-General or Governor on any subjects of importance upon which they may wish to consult him that come within his ken. With regard to the measures of relief in course of organisaation by Your servant, as rain has not yet fallen in the northern provinces, and Their Majesties the Empresses and Your Majesty are exercised and occupied day and night, although his illness prevents him from indulging in active exertion, he will not on that account cease to interest himself in the matter. The duties in connection with this matter being, moreover, of a simple nature, and requiring nothing more than the use of tongue and pen, that do not necessitate bodily motion, it will be the duty of Your servant to devote himself with all his energy to the devising of measures [for promoting subscriptions], remembering that each candareen that is contributed will rescue another starving man, and at the same time be the means of affording consolation to the Sacred Heart.

(For decree see *Gazette* of May 7th.)

May 28th.—(1) A decree again calling upon the Governor of Shantung to forward arrears of rice due by him for the support of the troops stationed at the Western Mausolea. Earnest representations on the subject have been made by the officers in command, who state that their troops are in urgent need of supplies.

(2) A decree appointing Ts'üan Lin 銓林 to the post of Sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat with rank of Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies.

(3) A decree directing the Metropolitan Government to consider the best means of providing the numerous refugees in Peking with funds to enable them to return to their homes and resume the tillage of their land. Although rain has now fallen everywhere in the North, there are large numbers of these refugees in Peking for whom it is difficult to find subsistence, and who are unable, for the time at least, to make their own way back. Extra vigilance is to be exercised in the Police Departments with a view to maintaining peace and order, and, as a means to this end, a rigorous scrutiny of the tickets or boards issued to each household under the tithing system is to be instituted.

(4) Memorial by Yung Lu and P'êng Tsu-hien, the Commissioners appointed to go to Sha-ho, a small town not far from Peking, to investigate the circumstances of a discovery of buried treasure in the garden of a retired eunuch. The result of their investigation has been summarised in a decree published on the 8th May.

(5) Postscript memorial by the Censor Ying Cün, drawing attention to a rumour that had reached him regarding the discovery of this treasure by the eunuch above mentioned. (See *Gazette* of 8th May.)

May 29th.—(1) A decree appointing Li Têh-ngo 李德裁 to the post of Lieutenant-Governor of Yünnan, which the present incumbent, Ts'ang King-t'ou, is allowed to vacate on account of ill-health.

(2) Ts'ing Chun, Tartar General of Fuhkien, and Ts'üan Fuh, Deputy Lieutenant-General in the same province, memorialise with respect to a Manchu military officer stationed at Foochow, of the 9th order of hereditary nobility, who had outstaid his leave of absence by six months, and had been in consequence deprived of his order of nobility, instructions being at the same time given for his apprehension. This individual has now returned to barracks, and gives the following account of himself. Being granted leave of absence in December, 1876, he went to Chang-chow and Ting-chow with his wife to see his parents and relations. At the latter place his wife had a son born to her, and two months afterwards he started to rejoin his corps. When he got to Yen-ping-fu, his wife, who had caught cold after her confinement, became seriously ill, and it was not until the summer that any improvement took place. He himself was then taken ill with an epidemic that was raging at the time, and his whole body swelled up and he became delirious. The disease clung to him for several months

before he could shake it off, and by this time his funds were exhausted, and he was obliged to borrow money to get back with. He begged that, as he had been deprived of the hereditary order of Yün K'i-yü, it might be conferred on the son that had been born to his wife. Persons having been sent to the different places to verify the statements of the officer, his story was found to be correct in every particular. The memorialists, therefore, in consideration of the fact that sickness was the cause of his outstaying his leave, beg that he may be exempted from being sent to the Board of Punishments for the infliction of a penalty, and that the order of nobility of which he was deprived may be conferred upon his son; also, that his name may be re-entered on the books of his corps.—Granted by rescript.

(3) Memorial by Yên Hü, Ting Ch'ang, and Ying Kwei, reporting that the portraits of the Sacred Ancestry have been reinstated in Sui-ch'êng-tien at Jeh-ho, and that of His late Majesty installed therein. The memorialists received, on the 18th April, a Council despatch informing them that two days previously they had been honored with an Imperial decree to the effect that, in obedience to orders given, the Imperial Board of Astronomy had selected the hours of 11 p.m. on the 30th April to 1 a.m. on the following day as the propitious moment in which to restore the Sacred Portraits of the Sacred Ancestry to, and reverently suspend that of His late Majesty in, the Sui Ch'êng-tien, the repairs to which were reported complete. Ts'ing Lin, the high officer specially appointed to convey the portrait of his late Majesty to Jeh-ho, having arrived on the 29th April, the memorialists went out to meet him dressed in gala robes, and accompanied by the Taotai, Prefect, and other officials, receiving the portrait upon their knees, and escorting it to the Hall where it was to be temporarily deposited on the 30th inst., at the time appointed. After the Sacred Portraits of the Sacred Ancestry had been reverently restored to their places, this portrait was piously suspended in the Siu Ch'êng-tien under the third pillar, the customary articles being placed on the table in front thereof. Rescript:—We learn the fact with reverence.

(4) Ying Lien, late Military Assistant Governor at Tarbagatai, reports that he has handed over his seals of Office to Hi Lun, his successor, and started for Peking on the 26th March.

May 30th (Court Circular). The Governor of Shun-t'ien reports a fall of rain in the capital to the extent of three inches and upwards of saturation.

(1) A Decree. Tso Tsung-t'ang memorialises repeating his entreaty that We will take back Our orders already given. He states that, though the New Dominion is reduced to subjugation, the great criminal (? the Emir) has yet to be slain; that calamity and malignant portents are continually making their appearance; and that at a time when the Sovereign and His Ministers should be mutually stimulating each other to the maintenance of a reverential attitude, he could not venture to accept the honor of a high degree of nobility far in excess of his merits. All of these remarks give evidence of the sincerity of his reverence aud awe, and are indeed deserving of the highest commendation. At a season like the present, so full of difficulties both great and urgent, this high Minister has devoted himself with the utmost loyalty and sincerity of heart to the accomplishment of the duties he had to perform, planning and successfully carrying out measures whereby he might be enabled to repay [the confidence that had been placed in him], and render valuable assistance in times of difficulty and danger. This high Minister has twice submitted his reasons for requesting a withdrawal of the honor that has been bestowed upon him, showing beyond all doubt that his modesty was not feigned, nor his voice raised in the sounding of his own praise. Nevertheless, the bestowal of hereditary ranks of nobility as rewards for meritorious services is, for all that, the bounden duty of the Court, whereby the outward manifestation of Our approval may serve as a stimulus to others. We therefore again command him, in obedience to Our earlier decree, not to persist in declining the honor bestowed upon him.

(2) Memorial from Wên Ko, Governor of Shantung, requesting that Chu Yung-k'êng, Acting Magistrate of the Yi district, may be deprived of rank and placed on his trial. In the month of March last a pawnbroker of that district lodged a petition at memorialist's Yamên charging certain underlings at the Magistracy with repeated acts of extortion. The Prefect of Ch'ung-chow, in whose jurisdiction the district in question lies, was accordingly directed to summon the parties before him and institute a searching enquiry. With this object he sent an expectant sub-district Deputy Magistrate Li Shu-kien by name, and one

Kao Wên-pao, to the place to bring the parties back. Nothing was heard of them for over ten days, when a report in the joint names of Lu Shu-kien and the Acting-Magistrate was received stating that Kao Wên-pao had gone mad, and wandered off, no one knew where. This was followed on the same day by a second report, stating that the man had committed suicide with a razor in a house outside the town. The circumstances of his death being very suspicious the Prefect sent two district Magistrates to investigate the matter, and they found that the man had been murdered, and had not, as was alleged, committed suicide. The Magistrate's underlings against whom the original charge had been brought, were then arraigned, and admitted that they had, both on their own account and that of the Magistrate, extorted money from the pawnbroker in question, the Magistrate having on one occasion compelled him to advance Tls. 3,000 on two boxes of clothes, but they persistently denied all knowledge of the circumstances of the murder of Kao Wên-pao. The memorialist, feeling certain that the Magistrate must in some way be responsible for the murder, irrespective of the acts of extortion complained of and the fact that he refused to produce a nephew against whom a charge of complicity in these acts has been brought, begs that he may at once be cashiered with a view to being placed on his trial.

May 31st.—(1) A decree. Tso Tsung-t'ang requests the bestowal of a mark of honorary distinction upon an Intendant of circuit who has contributed large sums for public purposes. The Taotai Hu Kwang-jung has already been recommended by Mei Ch'i-chao for honorary distinction on account of his contributions in aid of the famine, and has been handed to the Board for the bestowal of a reward. The meritorious services of this officer in attending, for a succession of years, to the purchase of munitions of war for employment in the work of subjugation in the West, and in devising measures for forwarding supplies of money, all of which have been executed with promptitude and regularity, are in no wise different from those displayed in the van of battle, and should naturally be encouraged. Let a Yellow Riding Jacket be bestowed upon Hu Kwang-jung.

(2) A decree in answer to the police censor of the northern division of the metropolis, directing that an assistant police magistrate shall be deprived of rank, and allotted a limited time within which to arrest the perpetrators of a burglary outside the Tê-shêng gate. The outrage occurred more than a month ago, and the criminals are still at large.

(3) A decree in answer to a memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang, reporting the death of Li Hwei-wu, Provincial Commander-in-chief in Kansuh, and requesting the bestowal of posthumous honors upon him. This officer, during the course of a long period of service in Hunan, Hupeh, Szech'wan, and Shansi, was present at several hundred actions and greatly distinguished himself. During the time he acted as General of the Han-chung brigade in Hupeh, his administration and the military reforms he instituted gave universal satisfaction. His death by illness is most deplorable, and as an act of special grace We command that the highest honors that can be allotted to commanders-in-chief who have died from sickness while at their post, after their merit has already been established, be bestowed upon the late Commander-in-chief. He will be succeeded by Chow Ta-wu 周達武.

(4) The Governor of Ngan-hwei solicits, on behalf of a large number of officials and gentry, permission to erect memorial temples to the late Ying Han, Military Lieut.-Governor of Urumtsi, at various places in the province, and prays that the State Historiographer's Office may be called upon to prepare his official biography. The memorial, which occupies several pages, gives a sketch of the late officer's career during his term of service in this and the neighbouring provinces. (For decree see *Gazette* of May 13th.)

(5) P'eng She-ch'ang, Censor of the Shantung circuit, submits two sets of regulations, the one to be observed as a precaution against famine, and containing fourteen articles; the other to be followed in case of the occurrence of famine, and containing forty-two articles. He requests that copies may be supplied to each province, with instructions to put them in force. Referred, by decree earlier issued, to the proper Board for consideration.

June 1st.—(1) A Decree. The Board of Punishments present a memorial on behalf of one of their second-class assistant secretaries submitting his views on a certain matter. Next to the five kinds of grain, the tea shrub and mulberry tree undoubtedly come in the order of natural vegetable products, and if by exhortation and command their cultivation can be extended, they will be sufficient in themselves to improve the means of subsistence open to the people, and give them the wherewithal for their daily use. Let

Governors-General and Governors of provinces, in reverent obedience to the manual of agriculture issued by Imperial authority, instruct the local authorities to take up the matter with zeal and sincerity, and, having due regard to the suitability of each locality for the cultivation of the tea shrub or mulberry tree respectively, instruct the people in the method of their cultivation, and exhort them to be diligent therein. Permission is hereby granted to Governors-General and Governors to recommend for the bestowal of honorary distinction any officers whose exhortations are attended with success.

(2) A decree ordering, on the application of Ch'ung How, Military Governor of Fêng-t'ien, the dismissal of a second-class Secretary who extorted Tls. 5,000 from his sister-in-law at his younger brother's decease. He is to be ordered to refund the money immediately, and to give a bond for his future good behaviour.

(3) Memorial by Li Hoh-nien, Director General of the Yellow River, and Acting-Governor of Honan, reporting the death of Yuan Pao-hêng, special high Commissioner for famine relief in Honan, and Vice-President of the Board of Punishments. On the 17th April the deceased officer was seized with an attack of an epidemic that was prevalent, which was brought on by long and excessive work. His gullet was obstructed, and his throat swelled up to an extent that baffled all the milder remedies that were used for the reduction of the swelling. The day after he was attacked memorialist went to visit him, and found him so seriously ill that he was unable to articulate; but he informed memorialist in writing that the malarious poison had sunk so deep into his system that none but strong remedies would have a beneficial effect. Strong purgatives were then proposed, but by the time the medicine was prepared he had already great difficulty in swallowing. The memorialist told the relatives and attendants of the sick man to be careful in their attendance upon him, and left a doctor to watch him, but he died the following morning at 6 o'clock. Memorialist at once went with the two Commissioners and the Taotai to see to the necessary arrangements, and learnt upon enquiry that Yuan Pao-hêng, as his end approached, beat his head upon his pillow [in obeisance to His Majesty], and with his own hand indicted a statement to the effect that famine relief measures were still incomplete, and [in dying before their completion] he was guilty of ingratitude for the heavenly bounty of Their Majesties the Empresses and the Emperor. He left behind him a testamentary memorial to be handed to memorialist for transmission. The memorialist humbly reflects that the deceased, when serving with his father Yuan Kia-san, Director-General of the Grain Transport, repeatedly distinguished himself in various actions in the provinces of Anhwei and Kiangsu, and again in operations against the *nienfei* in Chihli, where for many years he successfully carried on the duties of the office for the collection and forwarding of military supplies. For two generations, both father and son have borne a high reputation for official purity, honesty of purpose, loyalty, and devotion, and on this last mission upon which Yuan Pao-hêng was sent, he devoted himself to his duties with all his heart, doing his utmost to encourage loans and contributions, braving unpopularity and scorning fatigue. He and memorialist were wont, before the rain had fallen, daily to proceed on foot to the various temples and offer up prayers, when Yuan Pao-hêng registered a vow before the shrines of the various deities to devote his life to the cause he had in hand. He constantly visited the relief agencies in person to inspect the arrangements for the issue of supplies, and was not repelled by evil odours or foul sights, nor did he shrink from cold and wind. He had been ill for some time, and, harassed by constant anxiety and vexation on account of the insufficiency of the funds at his disposal, allowed himself no rest. When the rain came down at last, he was just proposing to start off on a general tour of inspection through the whole of the famine districts, when he was attacked by the epidemic which carried him off in three days. His funeral arrangements have been attended to by the provincial officials acting under the memorialist's orders, and his son, a lad of sixteen years of age, who is now in Peking, has been written to to come with all speed and perform the mourning rites, preparatory to conveying his father's remains back to their native place. The memorial concludes with a solicitation for the bestowal of the highest posthumous honors upon the deceased officer. (For decree see *Gazette* of May 14th.)

(4) Memorial by Li Hoh-nien reporting that the period of the *t'ao hiin* or "peach season freshet," on the Yellow River has passed without mishap. These freshets occur about thirty days after the ts'ing-ming *kieh* or fifth of the twenty-four periods into which the year is divided, and requires the observance of quite as many precautions as

the freshets of summer and autumn. The upper waters of the river began to swell earlier than usual this year, and by the 3rd of April the various stations had reported a rise of a foot and more. The water soon began to subside, and for the space of twenty days rose and fell to a small extent with varying regularity. Sluices were cleared, and proper precautions taken, with the result that the period passed without mishap. Materials in the shape of millet stalks, bricks, stones, etc., are however urgently needed at the various stations to carry the necessary preparations in anticipation of the great freshet, and no money is forthcoming, as every fraction of money that comes into the treasury is immediately spent in relief. By dint of strenuous exertions a small amount of material has been got together, but they are about as adequate for the works needed as a cup of water to extinguish a cart load of burning sticks. Difficulties have, moreover, been seriously augmented by the great rise in the price of materials. Be that as it may, summer is close at hand, and preparations are becoming a matter of immediate necessity, for if materials are not in readiness for use when wanted there will be no security whatever against damage in the season of the great freshets. The whole matter is causing memorialist great anxiety and he turns his eyes to the ceiling in anxious thought, wondering how in these times of impoverishment he can provide the wherewithal. The interests involved are so important that every effort must be made, and he will endeavour with the assistance of the Lieutenant-Governor to raise some funds, though really he cannot tell from whence they are to come.—Rescript: Noted.

June 2nd.—(Court Circular.) Shên Pao-king, Taotai of Kiukiang, had audience.

(1) A decree sentencing a magistrate of department denounced by Tso Tsung-t'ang for avarice and extortion, to dismissal and perpetual exclusion from employment in an official capacity.

(2-4) Decrees conferring the following appointments:—Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, with Superintendence over the Registry Office of the Three Treasuries (Bullion Treasury, Treasury of Silks and Satins, and Treasury of Dye-stuffs and Stationery), Che Ho 志和. Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, Ki Ko 繼格. Vice-President of the Board of War at Moukden, Mien Yi 綿宜. Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies, Kwei Jun 奎潤. Vice-President of the Board of Punishments at Moukden, K'i Yuan 岐元. President of the Board of Civil Office, Ling Kwei 靈桂. President of the Board of Ceremonies, Ngên Ch'êng 恩承. President of the Court of Censors, Yung Luh 榮祿. Supervising Censors over the Board of War and Board of Punishments respectively, San Tê 三德 and Ting Hi 廷禧. Censor of the Kiang-nan Circuit, Chow K'ai-ming 周開銘.

(5) The Grand Council had the honor to receive the following Decree:—Shên Pao-king, Taotai of the Kwang, Jao, Kiu, Nan, Circuit (Kiukiang), Chow * Jui-fên, Taotai of the Su-sung-Tai, Circuit (Shanghai), and Ch'ên Tsao-ju, Superintendent of the Ts'un-ki Maritime Customs, who were this day presented to Us, will hold themselves in readiness to have audience, one each day, commencing on the 2nd instant.

(6) Memorial from the Court of Censors forwarding an appeal lodged by one Ch'ên Yü-chên, a native of Kiangsi, who charges his uncles with having waylaid his father and assaulted him with swords and other weapons, cutting off his feet and hands, which caused his death shortly afterwards. Their animosity was caused by the claim of appellant's father to his full share in the family property which appellant's grandfather had given verbal instructions to his three sons should be divided in the proportion of one-half to appellant's father, and the remainder to the two brothers. Failing to obtain redress at the Magistracy or any of the provincial courts, appellant had brought his case to Peking.

June 3rd.—(Court Circular.) Lin Jui-fêng, Taotai of Shanghai, had audience.

A decree in answer to a memorial from the Famine Commissioner and Governor of Shansi, conferring the brevet rank of Reader of the Grand Secretariat upon Wu Ta-chêng, compiler of the Han-lin, and directing that the names of Li Chao-t'ang, Lieutenant-Governor of Chihli, and that of Ting Show-ch'ang, Acting Customs Taotai of Tientsin, be handed over to the Board for the determination of special marks of distinction in consideration of their services in connection with the forwarding of supplies of money and grain to the famine districts in Shansi.

* Probably an error on the part of the *Gazette* Office, as the officer is elsewhere called Liu.

(2-5) Decrees conferring the following military appointments :— Captain General of the Bordered Yellow Corps of the Guard's Division, K'o Hing-ah 克興阿. Captain General of the Plain Red Corps of the Guard's Division, Shang Tsung-jui 尙宗瑞. Deputy Lieutenant-General of the Manchu division of the Bordered Yellow Banner, T'o Yun 托雲. Deputy Lieutenant-General of the Manchu division of the Plain Red Banner, Yi Mo 奕謨. Deputy Lieutenant-General of the Mongol division of the Bordered White Banner, Ch'ang Shu 長敘. Deputy Lieutenant-General of the Manchu division of the Plain Blue Banner, Wên Hiu 文秀. Deputy Lieutenant-General of the Mongol division of the Plain Blue Banner, Jung Kwei 容貴.

(6) Tso Tsung-t'ang, in a postscript memorial, requests the removal of three magistrates appointed to three recently reconstituted districts beyond the Great Wall, who, from age or bodily infirmities, are unfitted to perform, under so trying a climate, the arduous duties in connection with the work of reorganisation. He proposes to withdraw them, and allot them posts within the Wall, selecting stronger and more hardy men to take their place.—Rescript : Noted.

(7) Postscript memorial by Mei K'i-chao, Governor of Chekiang, in answer to a representation from the Office of Imperial Manufactories urging the completion of 5,000 pieces of satin and 5,000 catties of velvet due on a recent order, which was not executed in full owing to want of funds. He has already received this year pressing orders from the Board of Works to prepare carriage trappings and green satin, and from the office of the Imperial Household for handkerchiefs large and small, and as these were apparently of a pressing nature, admitting of no delay, the Lieutenant-Governor was directed to issue money for the purchase of materials on the market. This year's production of raw silk has not yet come forward, but there is every reason to fear that prices will be high, as a severe winter followed by excessive rain in the spring has killed off a large number of worms. He proposes therefore, as was done last year, to make the completion of the order first alluded to dependent on the price of silk.—Granted by rescript.

June 4th.—(Abstracts of memorials.) Li Hoh-nien, Acting-Governor of Honan, reports that he has handed over the Governor's seal of office. T'uh Tsung-ying reports having assumed charge of the duties of the office of Governor.

(1) A decree in answer to the Censor Li Kwei-lin, who draws attention to a practice that is in vogue of allowing unscrupulous persons to present themselves at the various granaries with a number of the grain-tickets issued to the banner soldiery in part payment of salary, and draw this grain on behalf of the soldiers in question. The practice gives rise to trouble, owing to the appropriations of these unprincipled middlemen, and it is now ordered that the Superintendent of the Peking granaries shall, in company with the Lieutenant-Colonel of each division, superintend in person the issue of this grain to the officers authorised to receive it.

(2-6) A series of memorials from the high officials of Kiangsu, headed by one from Shên Pao-chêng, who announces that he has handed over his seals of office to the Governor, Wu Yuan-ping, preparatory to taking the three months' leave of absence that have been granted him. The Governor reports that he has handed his seals of office to the Lieut.-Governor Lo Fang-k'i, who, in turn, announces that he has assumed charge thereof. The Provincial Judge reports that he has taken over the seals of the Lieut.-Governor, and finally, Hüeh Shu-ch'ang, expectant Taotai, reports that he has assumed the duties of acting Judge and taken charge of the seals of that office.

(7) Memorial by Shên Pao-chêng reporting the death of an expectant *T'i-t'ai*, Chow Che-pên by name, who, after a distinguished career, died from the effects of old wounds received in action, which suddenly broke out afresh. He solicits for this officer the bestowal of the most distinguished form of posthumous reward, appending to the memorial a list of the actions at which the deceased officer was present, with the usual account of his antecedents.—Granted by rescript.

(8) Postscript memorial from Ho King, Governor-General of Min Chêh, reporting on the condition of the province of Fuhkien. Two floods in succession had already caused great distress, and the continuous rain during last winter and the spring of this year having rotted the crops, the price of rice rose considerably, and it was felt that if some precautions were not taken, the people would have some difficulty in getting over the period between the gathering of

the spring and autumn crops. Officers were accordingly sent to various provinces to purchase rice for sale at reduced rates, and a certain amount has now arrived, but purchases are unfortunately limited by the impoverished condition of the exchequer; if, however, as is earnestly hoped, no further floods occur between the spring and summer, the people may be able to tide over their difficulties. The river works in process of construction, as already reported, are being rapidly pushed forward.

June 5th.—A decree in answer to a memorial presented by the Han Lin-yüan on behalf of Wu Kwan-li, a compiler of that College, submitting his views on certain defects and abuses in the administration, commencing with an attack on the provincial military system. The decree notices his charges and suggestions, which contain nothing of a novel description, in vague and general terms, and orders reform in the matters complained of.

(2) Memorial from the Acting-Governor of Honan and the Literary Chancellor of that province requesting permission temporarily to forego the triennial test examinations of graduates and students at the three perfectures of Ho-nan, Shên-chow, and Yu-chow. The Literary Chancellor, having completed his periodical examination at the prefectures of Ch'en-chow and Kwei-tê, was proceeding to take in turn the above mentioned places, when he received a report from the officials in charge thereof to the effect that, in consequence of the severe drought that had so long prevailed, the lettered classes had gone elsewhere in search of food, and most of them had not returned, so that in all probability none would present themselves for examination. They requested therefore that the examinations might be put off until the next period came round. Similar representations were made by the magistrates of the districts in these prefectures. The Literary Chancellor, being averse to taking so serious a step as the postponement of examinations without due reflection, returned to the provincial capital and took counsel with the Governor, who had received identical representations from the three prefectures. With reference to this matter, memorialists have now to observe that, although rain has fallen, it has not been possible to secure the universal sowing of the autumn crop, while as yet few of the sufferers have returned to their homes; added to which the literary class in these parts, are, as a rule, people of scanty means, who are at once dispersed in every direction by the approach of famine and want; and, again, the services of the scholars aud students in the various colleges and schools have been invited in the organisation of measures of relief, and it is of course impossible for them while actively engaged in this work to close their doors and give their minds to study. A precedent for the cessation of examinations while measures of relief are in operation is afforded in the "Annals of Education," where it is stated that in the 23rd year of K'ien Lung the Imperial sanction was obtained for the cessation of examinations in three prefectures in Anhwei. With this record before them, the memorialists venture to request His Majesty to sanction the application made from the prefectures in question.—Sanctioned by rescript.

(3) The Judge of Honan, Fuh Show-t'ung, reports that he has resumed the duties of his office.

(4) The Lieutenant-Governor of Honan memorialises to the same effect.

(5) Wu Yuan-ping, Acting Governor-General of the Two Kiang provinces, and Loh Fang-k'i, Acting Governor of Kiangsu, memorialise that they are in receipt of a report from Chuh Lan-shêng, Acting Taotai of Shanghai, to the effect that Fêng Kün-kwang, the substantive incumbent of the post, having been granted leave of absence for one year to journey beyond the Great Wall in search of his father's remains, caught cold on his way back with them last winter. In the month of March last, while still on his journey, he was met with the information that His Majesty had been pleased to summon him to Peking to have audience, and, ill as he was, he did not venture to tarry, but came on with all expedition, reaching Shanghai on the 29th April, where he hoped to accomplish a speedy recovery. Unfortunately, the accumulation of hardships and fatigue he had endured proved too much for his strength, and he died on the following day. His death was reported to the Acting Taotai by his relatives, and also by the Magistrate, and it was the Acting Taotai's duty to request memorialists to announce the intelligence to His Majesty. The memorialists pay a tribute of respect to the deceased officer, whose filial piety they eulogise in fitting terms, and commend the zeal which prompted him to do his utmost to respond to His Majesty's summons. They have given orders that due attention shall be given to all arrangements connected with his obsequies. The post of Taotai of Shanghai now left vacant is one of great importance, and they beg that His Majesty will be pleased speedily to select a fit person to fill it.

June 6th.—(1) Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, reports the fall of sufficient rain in that province to enable the sowing of grain for the autumn crop to be proceeded with. Memorialist, in answer to a report sent in some weeks since announcing that showers had fallen, though not in sufficient quantity, was directed by His Majesty to continue to offer prayers for rain, and report when more had fallen. Altars were accordingly erected and prayers assiduously offered, with the result that on the 9th May, the day upon which an altar had been erected for prayer and sacrifices in the temple of the God of War, the provincial capital was visited with a fall of rain of four inches of saturation, and reports were later received that on the 10th and following day there had been a varying fall in different districts of one to four inches, sufficient to allow of the soil being turned up. Orders were at once given for the distribution of seed corn to those who had none to sow, and on the 15th they were fortunate enough in the capital to be visited with another fall of rain for the space of eight or ten hours, which entered the earth to a depth of more than six inches, and although no reports have yet come in from surrounding districts, the heavy clouds that remained in the sky for two days in succession afford every reason to believe that the fall has been universal. Old and experienced agriculturists all agree in the opinion that there is still time to sow both the early and late autumn crops, and a more satisfied tone now prevails among the people. The period of summer rains, however, has yet to intervene before the ripening of the autumn crops, the sowing of which alone is dependent on human effort. It is to the heavenly powers that men must look to bring them to maturity. The memorialist therefore prays His Majesty, as a propitiatory measure, to issue Imperial tablets to the Temple of the God of War in T'ai-yuen Fu, and to that of a Dragon deity in the same district.

(2) Pao-ying, Military Assistant-Governor at K'obdo, in a long memorial minutely detailing his symptoms, applies for permission to vacate his post on account of ill health.—Granted a month's congé by rescript.

(3) The same officer applies for permission to send back a company of soldiers detached from Heh-lung-kiang for the defence of K'obdo. He has no means of paying them himself, and not a fraction of their pay has been forwarded since their arrival last year. He borrowed on their account Tls. 6,000 from supplies that were on their way to Kinshun, but on application to the Tartar General under whose orders the soldiers are, he was informed by that officer that their pay should be sent forward when he received supplies himself, which is hardly a satisfactory way of dealing with an urgent claim.—Granted by rescript.

June 7th.—(1) A decree conferring honorary distinctions upon a number of officials, for whom they have been solicited by Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Yünnan, in consideration of the zeal and energy displayed by them in the capture of a number of notorious and desperate salt smugglers in the East of the province, and dispersal of the gang of which they formed a part.

(2) A long and uninteresting memorial from Ch'ung-how, Military Governor of Fêng-t'ien, reporting the result of an investigation into divers charges brought against one Yung-yü, a Manchu captain, by Ku-ni-yin-pu, Deputy Lieutenant-General at Kin-chow. The accused was charged with having made fraudulent use of the Lieut.-General's name to obtain possession of Government monies, of falsifying documents and altering drafts, of giving and accepting birthday presents, and of making money on the purchase of horses for the use of Government. After careful enquiry instituted in various quarters, the Military Governor has come to the conclusion that, although no actual proof of his guilt is at present obtainable, circumstances warranted the charges being made, and he recommends that the captain be placed on his trial.

(3) The Acting Governor of Hunan requests His Majesty to sanction the inheritance of a title of nobility by the nephew of a deceased officer who had no issue. Li Ch'ên-tien, General of the Kwei-tê Brigade in Honan, was the first to mount on the city wall at the recapture of Nanking in July, 1864, and for his gallantry on that occasion was invested with the title of *Tze*, or noble of the 4th order, and had a yellow Riding Jacket, and a two-eyed peacock's feather bestowed upon him. He died in the following month from the effects of a gun shot wound in the thigh received while holding the entrance to a mine that was being dug before the city, and an Imperial decree was issued directing that similar honors to those accorded to a commander-in-chief killed in action should be bestowed upon him, and, subsequently, at the recommendation of the Board, his successor was permitted to hold the title of

Yün-k'i-yü, with brevet rank of the order next above it, the next successor holding the title of *Ngên-k'i-yü*, or the ninth and lowest order of hereditary nobility. Having no children of his own, the deceased officer adopted a nephew, who is now five years of age, and permission has been applied for on his behalf to assume the title granted to his adopted father's heirs.—Referred to the Board of War.

June 8th.—A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Liu Hi-kin requesting that posthumous marks of Imperial compassion may be bestowed upon over three hundred persons who lost their lives during the occupation of certain portions of the T'ung-chow district in Shênsi by Mahommedan rebels in 1862. The Board whose duty it is are to ascertain the claims of these people to marks of Imperial compassion, and allot to each the measure to which they are entitled by law. Permission is accorded to the erection of a memorial temple to these persons by private subscription, and the Governor of Shênsi is directed to enquire into the accuracy of a statement by the Censor that the town of Ch'ao-yi owed its preservation to a literary graduate called Lei, for whom, in the event of the story being true, marks of Imperial compassion are also to be applied for.

(2) A decree ordering Wu-ch'ao, Intendant of the Ho-pei circuit in Honan, to vacate his post and come to Peking for audience.

(3) Memorial by Kwoh Ts'ung-kü, supervising Censor, requesting Their Majesties, now that Heaven has been moved to manifest itself in answer to prayer, to display their gratitude by redoubled efforts in the maintenance of a reverential attitude. Their Majesties have earned the universal gratitude of officials and people for the consideration they have shown for the sufferings of the people, as displayed in the earnestness of the prayers offered up, the numerous donations from the privy purse, and the reverence of attitude maintained. The rain that has now fallen shows clearly the affinity of sentiment between the Heart of Heaven and the Sacred Heart, the rectification and purification of the latter having moved the sympathy of the former. It is memorialist's earnest hope that Their Majesties will be actuated in all Their doings by this reverential spirit, conducting Themselves always as though the eye of Heaven were upon Them, that They may remain under its watchful care and protection. It should be borne in mind that, although rain has providentially fallen, those that have died from hunger can never be brought to life again, nor can those who have wandered away return to their homes at once. Cattle are dead, and seed is not to be procured; pillage and robbery cause apprehension on every side, and the evils that are rife are more than one shower of rain can possibly allay. Moreover, of late, high winds have prevailed, raising the sand on high till the very sun is red, and unless timely rain comes down, drought and dearth have still to be feared. Let the Court, then, continue to make use of men of steady purpose and upright mind, let them see that the people are actually the recipients of the bounty that is intended for them, discarding careless and dishonest agents for men of purity and benevolence of heart, who will exert themselves in the exercise of charity and pacify and console the people. The memorialist would further beg Their Majesties to instruct the tutors of His Majesty earnestly to instil into His mind during the intervals of study how the Heart of Heaven must be regarded with fear; to point out to Him the misery and suffering to which the people are reduced; and explain the principle by which the fullness of the sincerity of the reverence displayed by Their Majesties the Empresses hath moved the Heart of Heaven. Thus, not only will He acquire a thorough appreciation of the hardship and suffering that surround Him on every side, but will also be bringing to maturity a wealth of Sacred virtue for use in the days to come. (For decree see *Gazette* of 25th May.)

(4) Lo Fang-k'i, Acting-Governor of Kiang-su, reports the completion of the shipments of tribute grain by sea for the season. The shipment of the first instalment was reported by the Governor Wu Yuan-ping (see *Gazette* of 11th April), and the departure of the second instalment, amounting, with waste allowance, to pls. 138,712, on the 18th March, was notified to the proper authorities. The memorialist now begs to report that a portion of the third and last instalment, amounting in all to pls. 77,474, and stowed in 32 junks, left Woosung on the 21st April. Of the remainder, pls. 262,000, pls. 136,857 have been sent forward by the China Merchants' Co.'s steamers, and the balance will shortly follow.

June 9th.—(Abstracts of memorials.) Wên Koh, Governor of Shantung, reports that he has, in obedience to orders, collected the amount to be lent by his province towards the expenses attendant on the work of reorganisation in the New Dominion.

(1-2) Decrees conferring the following appointments:—General of the T'ai-yuan Brigade, Shansi, Chang Shu-p'ing 張樹屏. Intendant of the Ho-pei circuit in Honan, Wang Jung-kwan 王榮琯. The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a long and uninteresting report of the re-hearing of an appeal case by Li Hung-chang, and a few short memorials on unimportant matters.

June 10th.—(Court Circular.) Ying Kwei, Imperial Agent at Urga, had audience of leave. The Governor of Shun-tien reports a fall of rain in the capital to the extent of complete saturation.

(1) A Decree. Jung Lu, President of the Court of Censors, and others, report that they have agreed upon the regulations under which famine refugees should be provided with funds and sent back to their homes, and request Us to grant them money for this purpose. The refugees from Pao-ting and other prefectures and districts in Chihli where the distress has been unusually great, were sent back some time ago by the Governor of Shun-t'ien. Jung Lu and his colleagues have now ascertained by enquiry amongst the refugees in Peking from Wu-ts'ing and other districts in Chihli, Lin-ts'ing and other districts and departments in Shantung, P'u-ch'êng and other places in Shênsi, as well as those from Shansi and Honan, who amongst them are willing to return to their homes, and have supplied them with funds and sent them back, giving them *cash* for their expenses on the way, and, in some instances, additional grants of money as capital upon which to commence on their return. As an act of special grace we bestow Tls. 20,000 for this purpose, which the Board of Revenue will provide. We sanction the other measures proposed. In reply to the postscript memorial by the same officers, We command that a further donation of 1,000 piculs of rice and Tls. 1,500 be supplied by the Board of Revenue to the agencies for the issue of gruel outside the Yung-ting and other gates of the Chinese city.

(2) A decree ordering, at the suggestion of T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shênsi, the dismissal of five minor officials, district magistrates and others, for carelessness in the administration of relief, indulgence in feasting and revelry at untimely seasons, extortion, dishonesty, and want of self-repect.

(3) Wang Wên-shao, Vice-President of the Board of War, and member of the Grand Council, applies for two months' leave of absence in order to meet his mother, who is on her way to Peking. When memorialist was in Hunan, his mother lived with him in his official residence till, in obedience to command, he came last January to the capital to have audience of His Majesty, who was graciously pleased to command him to serve in Peking. He then wrote to his mother praying her to come to him, and he has now received a letter from his family stating that his mother had already started. Being nearly eighty years of age, and unable to support the fatigue of the journey by land, she is coming up by the Grand Canal. Memorialist having no brothers, there is no one to wait upon his mother, and he proposes to go as far as Shantung to meet her, but as this journey will take time, he is compelled to pray Their Majesties to the grant him two months' leave. (For decree see *Gazette* of 26th May.)

(4) Postscript memorial by Li Hung-chang and the Governor of Shansi. The officers in charge of the establishment for the promotion and receipt of contributions in aid of the sufferers by famine in Shansi had reported as follows:—"The mother of one Tsêng Yên-ts'üan, an expectant prefect in Kweichow, had been a widow for many years, and under her guidance and tuition her sons had been enabled to make names for themselves in the world. Though always ready and glad to do a good and charitable action, she conducted her household on the strictest principles of economy, and never ventured to waste or spend unnecessarily a grain of rice or a single thread of silk. She died possessed of several thousand taels, which she left instructions should be expended in relief when occasion required. Tsêng Yên-ts'üan did not neglect his mother's injunctions, and when the question of relief for Shansi became so urgent, handed over to the contribution office the whole of her savings, amounting to Tls. 2,000." The memorialists quote a law to the effect that in the event of any person contributing a sum exceeding Tls. 1,000 for a charitable purpose, application shall be made to His Majesty for permission to erect a memorial structure in his honor, and he shall be presented with an inscription bearing the words:—"One that delighteth in good works and loveth to dispense charity." They accordingly recommend that the son of this lady, whose character for virtue and whose charitable bequest are deserving of the highest commendation, be permitted to erect a

memorial structure in her honor.—Granted by rescript.

(5) Postscript memorial by Li Hung-chang reporting that the province of Chihli was visited with further showers of rain on the 10th and 16th May, moistening the ground to a depth of from 2 to 5 inches in different localities and in some places even to the extent of complete saturation, thereby enabling farmers to prepare the ground for the autumn crop, which, though it should have been earlier in the ground, it is not yet too late to sow. If this rain should be followed by a proper succession of wet and fine weather, there is every hope that dearth may be turned into plenty. Unfortunately, in the districts which have suffered most from famine, farmers and agricultural labourers have wandered elsewhere in search of food, and the majority of them have not yet come back, so that one of two conditions presents itself; either, there is land and no one to cultivate it, or, there are cultivators and no seed to sow; in any case a most distressing state of things. A sum of Tls. 30,000 has been appropriated from the fund for the maintenance of coast defences, to which will be added all that can be obtained from an appeal for contributions in Peking and the provinces, for the purpose of providing seed corn to those that are in need of it, which will be distributed under the superintendence of responsible officials. In addition to the above, supplies will be provided from any other available sources.

June 11th.—(Abstracts of memorials.) Wên Koh, Governor of Shantung, reports the loss of a grain junk by foundering after striking on a rock.

The same officer forwards a return of the *lekin* duty collected on opium during the past year. (*Note.*—Notices of reports on the collection of *lekin* on opium frequently appear in the "abstracts of memorials," but are seldom published at length, which is much to be regretted, as they contain information that cannot elsewhere be procured.)

(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Court of Censors reporting that a petty officer on duty at Yuan-ming-yuan had charged Hiao Ts'ing, Colonel of the Central Division of the Corps established there, with having kept back part of the pay of his men and with pulling down buildings in the "forbidden" grounds, the bricks and stones of which he had employed in the erection of building and carrying out repairs in his own garden. The Board of Punishments is called upon to summon the parties and investigate the matter thoroughly, reporting the penalty they propose to inflict.

(2) Decree in answer to Chang P'ei-lun, Reader of the Han-lin, who complains of the corruptness of administration that prevails in Honan, and of the careless manner in which relief measures are carried out. Orders have already been given for the denunciation of all persons carrying out relief measures in an improper manner in the provinces of Shansi and Honan. T'uh Tsung-ying, Governor of the latter province, is now especially called upon to make careful search for persons of this description, and unsparingly denounce them whenever they are to be found.

(3) A decree ordering the immediate apprehension of some individual or individuals who had the audacity to forge a stamped official despatch from the Superintendents-in-chief of the Imperial Granaries to the office of Gendarmerie, requesting them to arrest certain persons whose names were given.

(4) A decree from their Majesties the Empresses, Ts'ze-An-Twan-Yu-K'ang-Kêng, and Ts'ze-Hi-Twan-Yeo-K'ang-Yi. Chang P'ei-lun, Reader of the Hanlin College, memorialises requesting Us to cultivate the practice of virtue and possess Ourselves in quietness, that floating gossip may be set at rest. Pao T'ing, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, reports that false and evil rumours are daily springing up, and prays that We will promulgate an Act whereby they may be suppressed, and permanently set at rest, The successive falls of rain in the capital, by which complete saturation of the ground has been obtained, have caused the minds of all to be at perfect ease; the refugees from other parts have now been provided with funds and sent in instalments to their homes, so that in these quarters no provision need be made against unforeseen and uncontemplated troubles. As regards the gates of the forbidden city, it is right that the strictest quiet should there prevail, and the commandant of the vanguard division, with the Captain-General of the guards, have before been ordered to be zealous in the organisation of arrangements to this end. The Prince of Ch'un, too, has represented to Us by word of mouth that the troops of which the Peking Field Force (*Shên Ki Ying*) is composed could, during the period of rest allowed them by regulation in the summer* be available to

* The Peking Field Force, numbering some 18,000 or 20,000 men, are encamped for a portion of the year in the Hai-tsze, or Imperial Park, to the South of the city. The "period of rest" referred to means that during the hot summer months they are released from service in the camp, hence the Prince of Ch'un's suggestion that they should be put on police duty.

assist the police authorities in the work of watch and patrol, and We have given Our assent to his proposition. From the 6th to 26th of May, the sun and moon upon their rising and setting have frequently presented a dull red fiery appearance. It is stated in the "T'ien-wên-chêng-yi" or the "True Principles of Astronomy," that "when signs appear in the sun and in the moon, the fulfilment of which gives cause for fear, if within the space of three days a fall of rain occurs, they may be disregarded, for they mean nothing. If the signs be watched with care, and record kept from day to day, should it be noticed that within the space of three or four days there is rain, whether heavy or light, or that the heavens are dark with clouds, then the phenomenon doth not amount to a sign." The Yamên whose business it is to notice these matters has memorialised Us, as required by regulation, upon this phenomenon, but the fact of their having done so should give no cause for groundless apprehension. If, as reported by Chang P'ei-lun and Pao T'ing, the people by reason of these things promulgate and give ear to evil stories which daily become more rife, then have the efforts of the Court for the adjustment and organisation of matters in the ordinary routine of administration [been misunderstood], and so perverted as to become the object of popular bewilderment and mistrust. Under these circumstances it becomes imperative that [the actual condition of things] should be set forth in a clear and intelligent manner for the information of all persons, with a view to disarming popular suspicion and quieting the minds of the people. To this end We command that full publicity be given to the memorial of the Board of Astronomy. In the matter of the rigorous enunciation of the regulations restricting the traffic at the gates, let the Minister of the Presence, the members of the Grand Council, the Comptroller of the Imperial Household, the Commandant of the Vanguard Division, and the Captain-General of the Guards, promptly search the records for a precedent, and take counsel together as to the measures it is best to adopt, reporting to Us the result of their deliberations; and let the General-Commandant of the Gendarmerie instruct his subordinates to carry out with energy the arrangements in connection with the tithing system in the inner and outer cities. The Shên-wu and Ts'ang-ch'ên gates are those by which the eunuchs and workmen have exit and ingress. Let the Comptroller of the Imperial Household cause secret and vigorous watch to be kept at these points, and let him also cause strict supervision to be exercised over the eunuchs in various parts of the palace, that they may be held in proper restraint and check.

(5) Tuh Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, reports that the capital has been visited with further falls of rain. On his arrival at his post he had an interview with Li Hoh-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, and the staff of officials stationed in the capital, whose accounts of the terrible condition of things filled him with burning impatience. He was about to engage in a period of fasting and prayer, when rain providentially fell during the space of twelve hours. The Magistrate of the Hiang-fu district reported that four inches of saturation had been obtained, which would cause crops that had already been sown to spring up at once, while it was still not too late to sow for the autumn harvest. Shortly afterwards reports began to come in from various districts that rain had fallen, until at last sixty-three districts reported falls of rain varying from two or three inches to complete saturation. These occurred before the fall in the capital of the 16th May above reported, which there is reason to believe extended over a radius of several hundred *li*.

June 12th.—(1) Memorial by T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shênsi, reporting the fall of rain in sufficiently large quantities to relieve His Majesty of all further apprehension as to the prospects of a good harvest. The quantity of rain that fell in April last, with the prices of grain that then prevailed, have already been reported to His Majesty. Since the despatch of that memorial reports have been received from the northern prefectures of rain to the extent of four or five inches of saturation, and, later on, the Prefects of Han-chung and Hing-an announced a fall of rain on the 2nd May amounting to complete saturation. The provincial capital and surrounding districts were visited at various intervals after the 1st May with light showers, that had the effect of moistening the ground to a depth of three inches or so, until, on the night of the 15th, the rain came down in torrents and completely saturated the ground in the prefectures of Si-an, Feng-hiang, Ping-chow and K'ien-chow; and although reports have not yet come in from Yen-ngan and other outlying prefectures, there is every reason to suppose that the downpour has been universal. To the south of Si-an and Wei-ho, where rain has fallen more frequently, an abundant harvest may be expected on the second sowing of wheat, and in the places to the

north of the river, where the shoots of the supplementary sowing of beans and wheat have appeared above the ground, the farmers, now that this grateful rain has fallen, can get on with the sowing of their autumn crops. The ground being thoroughly moist, and a harvest confidently foretold, a feeling of joy and satisfaction pervades the minds of the people, and peace and quiet everywhere prevail, to an extent that may relieve His Majesty of any further anxiety.

(2) Memorial by Mei Ch'i-chao, Governor of Chêkiang, reporting the amount of contributions that have been raised in his province in aid of the sufferers by famine in Honan and Shansi, in conformity with the sanction contained in an Imperial decree promising honorary distinctions as rewards to contributors. On receipt of the communication from the Board on the subject, the memorialist, the two commissioners, and the Taotai, set the example by contributing their anti-extortion allowances, and at the same time directed the officials and notables to do their best to encourage contributions in every quarter. By this means contributions were received at different times by the two commissioners amounting to Tls. 20,000, which were sent forward in two instalments. The Taotai of Ningpo, Shao-hing and T'ai-chow collected Tls. 25,000, which were forwarded in three instalments; Lu Sin-yüan, late Taotai of the Kao-lien Circuit in Kwangtung, now in retirement at his native place, collected, with the Prefect of Hu-chow, Tls. 11,203, sent in three instalments; and Hu Kwang-jung, a wealthy notable, expectant Taotai in Kiangse, now in his native place (Hu Taotai, the Hangchow banker), himself contributed towards the expense of forwarding the above amounts, Tls. 15,000. The whole of these sums, amounting in all to Tls. 71,203, were sent to the China Merchants' Co. in Shanghai for transmission to the Shansi contribution agency at Tientsin. In addition to the above, Tls. 15,900 were supplied from the military store fund; a further contribution of Tls. 15,000 for expenses of transport was made by Hu Kwang-jung; and $6,000 were collected by Tsow Jên-fu, an expectant prefect, making a total of Tls. 30,900 and $6,000, which were sent for distribution in Honan. Considering that the province has not yet entirely recovered from the effects of the rebellion, that last year's harvest was a bad one in consequense of the excess of rain, and, also, that the distress in adjoining provinces has raised the price of grain, the memorialist is of opinion that after contributing upwards of Tls. 100,000, the inhabitants have not the capacity for subscribing more; but as Honan and Shansi still continue in urgent need of help, and the duty of compassion to one's neighbour is one that all should recognise, he will give orders that every effort be made to encourage further contributions. A list of contributors is forwarded in a separate memorial.

(3) The Governor of Chêkiang reports the departure from Shanghai of the balance of the tribute rice due this year from his province. The quota of tribute grain due this year from Chêkiang amounts in all to piculs 418,000. Of this, piculs 10,100, for which money is forwarded instead, must be deducted; leaving a net amount of piculs 407,900 to be sent from Shanghai. Of this the first instalment, consisting of piculs 158,200, left Shanghai on the 5th March, followed by a second instalment of piculs 139,100 on the 22nd, piculs 75,600 of which were shipped by steamer. The balance, consisting of piculs 110,500 was despatched by the 1st May, piculs 56,300 being placed on board twenty-five junks, and the remainder being shipped by steamer.

June 13th.—A decree in answer to a memorial from Ming An, military Governor of Kirin, sentencing a Manchu Captain to deprivation of rank for carelessness in connection with the arrest of a number of burglars.

(2) Postscript memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang. Hu Kwang-jung, a notable at present residing in Chêkiang, his native province, who holds the brevet rank of Financial Commissioner, and is eligible for appointment to the post of Taotai, hearing last year that great distress prevailed in Shênsi in consequence of drought, and that the people were in urgent need of relief, offered to contribute Tls. 20,000 and 15,000 piculs of white rice, which was to be sent to Hankow for immediate transmission to Kansuh (sic., in orig.) Memorialist, as the distance was great and transport difficult, called on him to contribute money instead of rice, and he now states that he has contributed instead Tls. 30,000 making a total of Tls. 50,000 which he had sent to Shensi for disposal in the issue of relief. The Tls. 300,000 of foreign loan (?), which had been kept back for the purchase of rice from Japan, was also forwarded in coin to Kansuh instead of rice, as originally intended, the former being less bulky and easier of transmission. Hu Kwang-jung at the same time sent to the

memorialist a list of other sums contributed by him, as under:—For the Mu-yang district in Kiangsu, 30,000 strings of *cash*. for the sufferers in Shantung, Tls. 20,000, 5,000 piculs of white rice, and 3,100 strings of *cash*. Contributed at his instance, 30,000 new wadded garments and Tls. 15,000 for Shensi; and for Honan, Tls. 15,000. He explained that, as a personal witness of these evil times, and out of consideration for the suffering of the starving and homeless, he had done his utmost to aid in contributing towards their relief, and would not venture to solicit the bestowal of an honorary reward for what he had done. Hu Kwang-jung was, at memorialist's suggestion, deputed to superintend the purchase and forwarding to him of munitions of war from Shanghai, and has conducted the duties of this establishment for over ten years in succession, during which time he has never erred or failed in punctuality. He made a point of personally inspecting all foreign powder and arms, with a view to ascertaining their quality and efficiency, and purchasing only when prices were moderate or low. Whenever western nations brought out some new gun or cannon, he would immediately purchase a specimen and send it to Kansuh. As, for instance, the big Prussian *(Pu-lo-sze)* gun working with a screw at the breech (後膛螺絲), which was used in the attack on the rebels at the Kin Tsi stockade and at the destruction of the Hia Kien stockade and several hundred others. Also, in the attack on the Hian Hia pass in Sining, the enemy fled before it. Last year, too, the guns were used in the attack upon the town of Ta Ban, when they worked with great precision and regularity. The Dunganis were greatly scared by them, the rebels generally fearing them as possessing divine power, while the Imperialist officers admired their efficacy, and contended with each other for the possession of them. Some scores of these guns, large and small, still remain of those that were sent at different times, as well as several thousand breech-loading rifles (or carbines) for the cavalry and infantry, which have enabled the troops to work with a rapidity and proficiency that was never before attained. The rapid subjugation of the region beyond the Great Wall and of the New Dominion, may be attributable, doubtless, to the force of numbers, but it was also due to the efficiency of the weapons employed, and in this respect the meritorious services of Hu Kwang-jung should not be passed unnoticed. Memorialist was entirely dependent for his subsidies on contributions from the various Custom Houses in the south-eastern provinces, and it is to the single-handed efforts of Hu-Kwang-jung, who accelerated the delivery of these funds, took charge of them, and sent them forward in the face of difficulty and obstruction, that the memorialist is indebted for the regularity of their receipt. Whenever supplies ran short or stopped, Hu Kwang-jung never failed to take timely measures, and borrowed or raised money in in other ways which he sent forward before the contributions reached his hands. When delay occurred in the arrival of money borrowed from foreign sources (?) *(Yang-k'wan)*, he borrowed largely from Chinese merchants to make good the deficiency. It is evident to all that memorialist's army is under deep obligations to Hu Kwang-jung, and his share in the complete subjugation of the New Dominion that has recently been achieved is not one whit less commendable than that of the leaders in the van of the conquering army. The memorialist would not venture to award him more than his proper meed of praise and thus render himself liable to the punishment that awaits those who deceive their Sovereign, but, on the other hand, he dare not tone them down, and thus display an ungrateful misappreciation of the valuable assistance he has rendered. The list of contributions by Hu Kwang-jung, as submitted by himself, shows a total of about Tls. 200,000, which does not include the aid he has rendered to the sufferers in Shênsi or the various pills, plasters, powders and prepared medicines, as well as drugs, which he has sent gratuitously and with unfailing regularity for the use of the troops, who are unable to purchase them on the north-western frontier, and which must have cost him in the aggregate no inconsiderable sum. Instances of such genuine and unassisted philanthropy and devotion amongst the gentry and notables are few in number, and the memorialist would suggest to His Majesty the propriety of sanctioning the bestowal of a signal mark of honorary distinction upon Hu Kwang-jung in the form of a Yellow Riding Jacket. He reverently awaits the decision of His Sacred Majesty upon his suggestion. (For Decree see *Gazette* of 31st May.)

June 14th.—(1) A decree conferring the following appointments:—Junior Deputy Supervisor of Instruction, Imperial Supervisorate, Ts'ing Lin 慶麟. Censor of the Kiangnan Circuit, Ngo-lo-king-ngo-cha-

la-fêng-ah 額勒經額札拉豐阿.
Lin Yu-sung and Chow Hêng-che are restored to their original rank and status.

(2) A decree permitting Kw'ei Ling, President of the Board of Revenue, to vacate his post on account of ill-health.

(3) Memorial from the Governor of Kweichow, Li P'ei-king, giving a return of the sums that have been contributed by himself and his subordinates in aid of the sufferers in Shansi. Thanks to the great prosperity of His Majesty, the harvest secured last year in Kweichow may be called an average one, and memorialist, having learned from perusal of the *Gazette* that the Governor of Shansi had reported sights too horrible to see, and sounds too piteous to hear, as the result of the unprecedented drought, far away as he is, upon a distant frontier, was moved to pity as he pictured to himself the condition of things that prevailed in that province. He accordingly took counsel with the commander-in-chief as to what they and the provincial staff could do, by contribution of their allowances, to aid the sufferers in their distress. As the result of their deliberations, memorialist put down Tls 2,000, and the T'i-tai followed with Tls. 1,000; the Financial Commissioner also gave Tls. 1,000, and the Judge Tls. 500. Four Intendants of Circuit and five Prefects each subscribed Tls. 500; and subscriptions from numerous minor officials varying from Tls. 300 to Tls. 200, made a total of Tls. 10,000. The memorialist is well aware that the sum is not a large one, and will make no appreciable difference in the amount of relief that it will be possible to afford. Still, as he reflects on the duty of pity for the sufferings of one's neighbour, he thinks that the little they have been able to do may perhaps be accepted as an illustration of the exercise of the ordinary charity that would prompt a man to offer a cup of water [to a thirsty neighbour or a suffering friend.] Memorialist and his associates have done no more than their duty in contributing this sum, and would not venture to do what they did in the hope of obtaining honorary rewards. —Rescript: It is noted. Let application be made for the bestowal of honorary distinctions on the contributors, in accordance with the regulations in force in the other provinces.

June 15th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien reports a fall of rain throughout his jurisdiction varying from a tenth of an inch to an inch of saturation.

(1) A decree appointing King Lien 景廉 to the post of President of the Board of Revenue, and Jung Lu 榮祿 to that of President of the Board of Works, the post of President of the Court of Censors, vacated by the latter, being bestowed upon Wên Yü 文煜.

(2) A decree appointing Yi Hiang 奕祥 to the post of Captain-General of the Han-kün division of the Bordered Red Banner corps.

(3) A decree consenting to the opening of two of the agencies for dispensing gruel in Peking for a furthor period of two months. A grant of piculs 400 of rice is made for the use of these establishments, the money for which is to be supplied by the metropolitan tax office.

(4) A decree consenting to a similar arrangement for the various gruel establishments at the six gates, Lu-kow-k'iao, and other places near Peking, amounting altogether to eleven in number. Piculs 1,400 and Taels 2,000 are granted for this purpose.

(5) Tso Tsung-t'ang reports the death of Li Hwei-wu, Commander-in-chief in Kansuh, and Acting-General of the Han-chung Brigade in Shênsi, and requests that an officer may be speedily appointed to take his place.

(6) Postscript memorial by Tso Tsung-t'ang giving a sketch of the military career of the officer whose death is reported in the foregoing memorial, and requesting that posthumous honors may be awarded him similar to those of a Commander-in-chief who dies a natural death after his military prowess has been established. (Granted by decree of the 31st May.)

(7) Memorial from Ch'ung How, Military Governor of Shêng-king, reporting that the daughter of the late Grand Secretary Wênsiang, who was the wife of the son of an expectant Prefect in Szech'wan, had sent an agent to memorialist's yamên with the following petition:—"I have received a letter from my step-mother in Peking, the secondary wife of my father, to the effect that my late father willed the whole of the ancestral property he had heredited to his two nephews, K'ai Chao, a probationary second class secretary in the Board of Works at Sheng-king, and his younger brother K'ai Yüan, between whom he also divided half the property he had acquired by purchase and the sum of Tls. 10,000. A formal document had been drawn up showing the manner in which the property

was to be divided, so there could be no doubt as to the validity of the bequest. In February last, K'ai Yuan, the younger of the two legatees, died in Peking, and for a month or more after his decease, his widow said nothing that would afford reason to suppose she was dissatisfied with the division of the estate. Yuan Chao, the other brother, then came to Peking and set her on to extort from my step-mother the sum of Tls. 10,000 [a portion of the remainder of the property], saying that if my step-mother refused to comply with her demand, when her, the widow's mother came to Peking, my step-mother would find it difficult to withstand any demands she might make upon her, adding that nothing less than a payment of Tls. 5,000 would settle the matter. Your younger brother Hi Che (continued my mother), being of too tender an age to discuss this question, there was nothing for it but to get together the money and pay it over. It being quite out of the question, however, that so groundless and wanton an act of extortion as this could be tamely submitted to, my step-mother directed me to send some one to lodge a complaint at the Governor's yamên." On receipt of this petition, the memorialist sent word to K'ai Chao to be ready to appear when called upon, and then directed the captain of the company to which he belonged, in conjunction with the head of his clan, to call upon Yuan Chao at once to refund the money, threatening him with instant denunciation and punishment if he delayed a moment in doing so. These individuals have now reported that Yuan Chao admitted the accuracy of the statements in the petition as to the distribution of the property, and said that his sister-in-law had extorted the Tls. 5,000 to expend on a charitable object. The memorialist after summarising the contents of the petition, and reflecting on the conduct of Yuan Chao, which he stigmatises as most unnatural, requests that he may, as a preliminary step, be cashiered, and placed under the surveillance of the local authorities, who will recover from him the Tls. 5,000 for restitution to Hi Che, the son of the late Grand Secretary's secondary wife, and call upon him to enter into a bond for his future good behaviour. Should he again attempt to defraud or oppress the fatherless and the widow, he shall be punished with the utmost severity. (For decree see *Gazette* of 7th June.)

June 16th.—(1) A Decree. Tso Tsung-t'ang represents that the malady from which Liu Tien is suffering is one from which he cannot speedily recover, and that his parents are of an advanced age. He therefore craves permission for him to vacate his post and return to his native place. In another memorial he prays that an officer may be sent to assist him in the place of Liu Tien. We permit Liu Tien to vacate his post and return to his native place. Let a button of the 4th grade be bestowed upon Yang Ch'ang-kün, formerly Governor of Chêkiang, who will assist the Governor-General in the work of re-organisation in Kansu and the New Dominion. Liu Tien will await the arrival of Yang Ch'ang-kün before handing over charge of his duties, and the latter will proceed to Kansu with all despatch.

(2) A decree referring to a complaint made some time since by Wang Wu-lwan, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, to the effect that certain of the Manchu soldiers stationed at Hangchow had created a disturbance by endeavouring to force a tradesman to sell goods at the price they offered, in the course of which arms were used and a shopkeeper lost his life, the perpetrators of the outrage escaping to barracks where they remained in hiding. The Tartar General in command was thereupon called on for a report of the affair, and he now states that the disturbance arose in the following manner :—One Chên T'ing, *alias* Jung Fu, a bannerman from Tê-chow in Shantung, no longer borne on the roster, attempted to buy some tea at his own price from a shop in a place called Lien-k'iao. The proprietor objected and a fight ensued, in the course of which some privates came up and endeavoured to separate the combatants, and in the course of their efforts one or two of the assistants in the shop were wounded, whereupon the originator of all this disturbance ran away. The Tartar General, who has shown an inability to keep his soldiers under proper restraint, and has failed to effect the arrest of the person responsible for the disturbance, is to be handed over to his Board for the adjudication of a penalty, and is positively to secure the arrest of Chên T'ing, *alias* Jung Fuh, who still remains at large.

(3) The Court of Censors memorialise forwarding an appeal by one Wu Ch'ang-yu and others, natives of the Kien-li district in Hupei, who complain that Chang Chêng-kwei and others had, contrary to law, established a forge for the manufacture of arms, with which they had killed three persons, the bodies of whom they threw into the water after having chopped them into pieces ; the remaining body, which was covered with wounds, was inspected by the

Magistrate and a note of the wounds taken down. These same persons, at the head of some 2,000 others, also attacked some workmen digging a canal to which they objected, and slaughtered them indiscriminately, cutting out their hearts and livers. Failing to obtain justice on the spot, the aggrieved parties had lodged this appeal.

(4) Postscript memorial by Tseng Kwo-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi. The unprecedented dearth of last year, which left the people nothing upon which to sustain life, called forth redoubled exercise of compassion on the part of His Majesty, who on repeated occasions was pleased to issue tribute grain for the relief of the sufferers, which it was but the natural duty of memorialist to convey to the famine districts with all despatch, in order to give full scope to the Imperial bounty and save the lives of His Majesty's subjects. Unfortunately, all the beasts of burden on the road from the South towards the West of the province had fallen down and died, and now, since slight showers of rain have fallen, is just the time when everyone is busy ploughing up the furrows. Last winter there were a few camels to be hired, but as the summer went on they all returned to the yards where they are kept, and neither mules nor porters are to be had anywhere, as the people having gone where they can find more lucrative employment, nothing but high wages will attract them. There are, however, no funds in hand to provide for these heavy rates of transport. The contributions and loans from other provinces cannot all arrive at once, and local contributions have reduced the province to the condition of an unstrung bow. Last year's taxes were remitted altogether or immediate payment excused, and those for the first portion of the present year have also been remitted, so that the provincial treasury is as bare as if it had been swept, and there are no funds which can be diverted for this purpose. The Hiao-man, or 8th period of the year, is now close at hand, and if money for expenses of transport be not quickly raised, the inevitable result will be that the grain will be stopped in the middle of the route, and will not be got to the starving people. The only persons of comparative substance and wealth [in the province] are bankers and money brokers in the three districts of P'ing-yao, K'i, and T'ai-ku, from whom a loan of Tls. 210,000 was obtained, with the Imperial sanction, in the year 1874, when the funds required for military expenditure were insufficient. Tls. 70,000 of this loan still remain due, but these bankers, appreciating the difficulties of the time, have repeatedly consented to payment being deferred. The provision of money for expenses of transport having become a matter of impossibility, memorialist, as a last resource, sent an officer to the districts above mentioned to unite with the local authorities persuading these bill-broking and banking establishments with all the earnestness at their command, to come forward with a loan. The officer now reports that he has succeeded in borrowing Tls. 120,000. These establishments have branches in every province, and if they, too, will assist in inviting contributions, as soon as these amount to an appreciable sum it can be devoted to the repayment of the debt to the establishments in Shansi. Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

June 17th.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with uninteresting memorials on the subject of appointments and transfers of minor officials, principally in Shêng-king.

June 18th.—(1) A decree in answer to Na Lung-ah, Censor in charge of the central division of the metropolis, and others, requesting that the relief agencies at the five gates of the city and the establishments for dispensing gruel started by public subscription, may be kept open for a further period. The price of grain has not yet fallen, and the poor find it hard to live. We command, therefore, as a special act of grace, that the fifteen relief establishments at the five gates be kept open for a further period of two months. It is stated that the funds for the maintenance of the Ch'ao Yang-ko and other gruel agencies are insufficient.—Let application be made, as before, for a supply of rice for their use.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from Li Hung-chang requesting the infliction of penalties, mild and severe, upon certain officers in his jurisdiction whose conduct of measures in connection with relief has been far from satisfactory. One magistrate is deprived of rank but allowed to retain his post, for the exhibition of carelessness whereby injustice was perpetrated. Another official, the head of the gruel agencies in Pao-ting Fu, is dismissed and for ever debarred from employment in an official capacity, for irregular use of the underlings at his disposal, whereby a disturbance was engendered.

(3) Memorial by Li Kwei-lin, Censor of the Grain Transport, by sea, requesting that the standing regulations with regard to the employment of near kinsmen in the some province may be extended to the

officers employed on the river works in the North. By a standing rule of the Board of Civil Office, persons holding the relation towards each other of grandfather and grandson, father and son, uncle and nephew, and own brothers, cannot serve in an official capacity in the same province. This rule contains no express provision for the "respectful withdrawal" of persons employed on the northern river works in Chihli, who have kindred within the above enumerated degrees of relationship serving in the same province, but this is to be accounted for by the fact that in former times there was a Director-General for the northern, eastern, and southern river systems respectively, each at the head of a distinct service, which had no connection whatever with the local administration. The post of Director-General of the northern river system was long since abolished, and the duties of his office transferred to the Governor-General of Chihli, the control of all appointments to posts connected with this service being in the hands of the Financial Commissioner, differing in this respect from the eastern river service, the appointments to which are in the hands of the Director-General. As a result of this amalgamation, the officers of the regular civil service and those on the river works are employed indiscriminately, the latter being in many instances appointed to acting magistracies. Under these circumstances the memorialist thinks it right that the law of "respectful withdrawal" should be brought to bear on officials employed on the northern river service in Chihli, as a continuance of the present practice is likely, in the end, to lead to abuse.—Decree already issued.

June 19th.—(Court Circular.) Chang Yün-ts'ing paid his respects on his return from Han-tan, to which place he had reverently escorted the Iron Tablet.

The Grand Council and Chang Yün-ts'ing had audience.

(1) A decree sanctioning the bestowal of posthumous honors upon Chang Shuh-t'an, late Taotai in Kansuh, who was transferred to Shansi to be employed on relief work, and subsequently went to Chow-kai K'ow in Honan to purchase grain and establish an agency for the forwarding of supplies, where he died from the effects of overwork. A similar permission is granted in the case of two department Magistrates, who died from the same cause.

(2) A Decree. Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan reports the death of Ying Ki, late Financial Commissioner of Shansi, while on his way [to Peking,] and prays that the body may be permitted to enter the city (?Peking) for the performance of the mourning rites. The granting of permission for the body of a deceased high officer to enter the city gates is an act of special grace, and it is not the place of a Minister to solicit this honor hastily or unadvisedly. In making such an application on behalf of Ying K'i, the Governor has committed a great impropriety. We command that he be censured accordingly.

(3-4) Decrees notifying the following appointments and transfers :—Wan Ts'ing-li transferred to the Board of Revenue, his place as President of the Board of Ceremonies being taken by Hü T'ung, President of the Court of Censors; Wêng T'ung-ho 翁同龢 being promoted to the post vacated by the latter. P'an Tsu-yin steps into the post of Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue and Superintendent of the coinage department vacated by Wêng T'ung-ho, and Fêng Yü-ki 馮譽驥 is promoted to be junior Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies.

The greater portion of the remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a memorial from Wu Kwan-li, Compiler of the Han-lin, on administrative reform. He divides his subject into three heads, viz., the Metropolitan Boards, the Provincial Executive, and Military Administration. He complains of the unnecessary and wilful delays that are practised by the secretaries of these Boards in the furnishing of reports on various matters referred to them, and proposes by laying down certain limits of time within which drafts of memorials, reports, and documents of various descriptions are to be prepared and severally despatched, to abate the evil referred to. While admitting the difficulty of checking the evil propensities of clerks and underlings, whose malpractices and corruption have been guarded against and punished in every conceivable way, he suggests that a stricter supervision on the part of their superiors, and a judicious distribution of minor official posts as a reward for merit, would limit their power to do evil and act as a stimulus to honesty and good behaviour. He objects to the limitation of the power and scope of the Financial Commissioner in each province by his superiors the Governor-General and Governor, and considers that he should be allowed the exercise of his discretion in the appointment of officers to vacant posts. He urges the display of more activity and justice in the conduct of judicial tribunals; and finally, complains of the abuses that

are rife in the military administration, where only one man exists and pay is drawn for two, and the pay of the one is subjected to discount and deductions by his superior officer.

June 20th.—(Court Circular.) Hia Kia-kao (one of the members of the Tsung-li Yamên) returns thanks for the gift of a button of the second rank.

(1-4) Decrees appointing Shên Kwei-fên to the office of Chancellor of the Han-lin College; Sang Ch'un-jung to that of President of the Wu Ying-tien (one of the throne halls of the Imperial palace); Tung Hün to the Director Generalship of the She Luh-kwan or Veritable Record Office; and T'ung Hwa to a similar post in the State Historiographer's Office.

(5) Postscript memorial from Tso Tsung-t'an reporting that he is in receipt of an announcement from the Taotai of the P'ing-ts'ing-king-ku circuit, who is in command of the Wu-wei force, that it is proposed to collect from the members of the force a sum of money for the erection of a public memorial temple on a vacant plot of ground in the prefectural city of P'ing-liang, at which periodical sacrifices may be made for the consolation of the *manes* of the officers and men of the Wu-wei force, who so loyally lost their lives in action or died from the effect of wounds there received; as well as to those of the officials, gentry, and members of militia, who were killed while assisting the military in the defence of the various towns in the circuit. It is further proposed to cause the soldiers of the force to bring 400 *mow* of waste land under cultivation, and to devote the proceeds, after payment of taxes, to the purchase of articles required for the conduct of these sacrifices. The Taotai requested memorialist to report the matter to His Majesty, which he accordingly does, in the hope that the proper Board may be directed to place the fact on record. —Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.

(6) Li Ming-ch'e, newly appointed Financial Commissioner of Fuhk'ien, returns thanks for his appointment, and requests permission to come to Peking to have audience of His Majesty. The members of the Grand Council had the honor to receive the following decree: He need not come to see Us.

(7) Lu She-kieh, newly appointed Judge of Fuhk'ien, also returns thanks for his appointment.

(8) Tso Tsung-t'ang requests the bestowal of a posthumous mark of Imperial approbation upon the concubine of an expectant Prefect, lately dead, who on the decease of her master attempted to poison herself, but was detected by members of the household, and remedies applied which saved her life. Foiled in her first attempt, the woman then attended to the funeral arrangements of her master, and, these complete, took stock of her master's clothes and personal effects, which she handed over to his orphan son. A few days later she was suddenly seen by the members of the household to fall down in a faint; and when they ran to her assistance it was found that she had swallowed gold-leaf. The remedies applied were of no avail, and she shortly died, a laudable example of conjugal devotion and right feeling. —Granted by Rescript.

June 21st.—(1) A decree appointing Po-yên-na-mo-hu custodian of the Imperial Armoury.

(2) Memorial by Ho King, Governor-General of Min Cheh, reporting that he has been obliged to return abruptly from the tour of military inspection upon which he was engaged, owing to a return of his old malady, brought on by exposure to the weather, and requesting a congé of one month that he may give attention to his complaint. Upon the recovery of memorialist in the year 1876, when he went to Peking to have audience, Their Majesties graciously condescended to question him as to the nature of his complaint, thereby calling forth from him tears of gratitude and arousing in him an impatient desire to brace up his physical powers and display his appreciation of the condescension of which he had been the recipient. After his arrival at Foochow, though he suffered at times from his old complaint of secretion of phlegm and shortness of breath, he continued the discharge of his duties, arduous though the effort was, and did not think of applying for congé. Having been ordered last year to proceed on a tour of military inspection, Their Majesties were graciously pleased, at his representation, to consent to a postponement until the present year. When relieved, therefore, in April of the duties of Acting Tartar General, he decided to start on the 27th of the month, and reviewed in succession some fourteen or fifteen battalions, when the effects of remaining daily in one constrained posture, combined with the constant strain on his attention and exposure to the wind and sun, proved too much for his health. His eyes grew dim and exhausted, and he returned to his temporary residence with his spleen disorganised, his appetite gone, and the power of sleep taken from him. He

had not yet reviewed two thirds of the troops he had to inspect, but as he had been taught by experience on two former occasions when he was laid up away from home that recovery was a protracted process, he came to the conclusion that he must return, so on the 10th May he left Chang-chow for Amoy, where he took steamer and returned to Foochow. He is much afraid that his ailments will interfere with the efficient conduct of the business it is his duty to transact, and he would accordingly suggest that a month's congé be graciously afforded him that he may be able to nurse his malady. The Financial Commissioner could transact all daily business of an ordinary nature, but of course the memorialist would himself see to matters of an important description. He would add that a fair crop of wheat had been gathered in the prefectures through which he passed, and the young shoots of rice looked so promising that contentment everywhere prevailed, and if the summer rains are fairly and evenly distributed, a good harvest may be confidently predicted—Rescript: Let a month's congé be bestowed on Ho King.

(3) T'o K'o Jui, Military Deputy-Lieutenant Governor at Tsitsihar, reports his return to his post on the 18th May after the month's leave of absence that had been granted him to visit his parents, and sweep and do sacrifice at the ancestral tombs. He went to Heh-lung Kiang, his native place, and did what he had to do, and was just starting back when his father's leg began to swell. These symptoms being somewhat alarming in the case of an old man in the evening of his life, memorialist applied for another month's leave, which His Majesty was pleased to grant. This having now expired and his father being better, he has returned to his duties.

June 22nd.—(1) A Decree. Let Ch'ung How come to Peking to have audience. Let K'i Yuan act as Military Governor of Shêng-king, and Civil Governor of Fêng-t'ien. Su Lo-pu will perform the acting duties of Vice-President of the Board of Punishments at Shêng-king, in addition to his other functions.

(2) With the exception of two short memorials on matters of official routine, the remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a long and minute report from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szech'wan, reporting the capture at different periods of the leaders of several notorious bands of salt smugglers, who have for many years past been a terror to the province, and the dispersion of their followers. He commences his report by explaining that smugglers of salt abound in the complicated network of water-ways that is spread over the eastern portion of Szech'wan. Of late years their numbers and operations have been greatly extended, the members being leagued together under a solemn oath, and having an understanding with the local banditti; setting the authorities completely at defiance and resisting all attempts at capture. So formidable in fact did they become, that their speedy extermination became a matter of imperative necessity, if serious trouble in the future was to be avoided. The names of the most prominent of these smugglers, and the field of their operations, was known to the authorities; some of them—notably two, T'an Urh and Fêng Wang—were leaders of banditti as well, and had pursued their practices for a period of more than ten years, during which time they had got together gangs varying from one or two thousand to several hundred in number, all provided with firearms and heavy guns as well as weapons of other sorts, which were a terror to the people, and whom the authorities dared not molest. Repeated efforts were made by former Governors-General to exterminate them, but for the past eight years not a single capture has been made. At last, in the commencement of last year they became so formidable that it was felt that something must be done, and the acting Governor, Wên Koh, sent out troops to attack them. Memorialist, soon after his arrival, received a report from him to the effect that the band of T'an Urh and Fêng Wang had been attacked at a place in the Ho-kiang district, where they had taken up a strong position in a house and the yard or compound surrounding it; after a desperate fight, during which firearms were freely discharged on both sides, and many of the troops were wounded, the enemy were at last driven from their position by stinkpots, and rushed forth in a body upon our men. A desperate hand-to-hand encounter then ensued, lasting for over six hours, during which ninety-three of the enemy were killed, eight of the more prominent leaders captured alive, and thirty-eight other prisoners taken, with ninety-seven weapons of various kinds; a sergeant of militia and some others were also rescued. The leaders, T'an Urh and Fêng Wang, managed to escape, and it was requested that orders might be given for their pursuit and capture. Memorialist, feeling that as long as these men remained at large, a continual sense

of insecurity must exist in the province, and recognising at the same time the craft and ferocity of their followers, gave orders to the Taotai of the Yung-ning circuit to call out the military and trainbands in his jurisdiction and surround them on every side. As the result of these instructions, the Magistrate of Ho-kiang shortly reported that T'an Urh and Fêng Wang had made their way with the residue of their followers to a place called Hu-ts'ao-shan, in his district; that he had attacked them with vigour and had succeeded in capturing the two leaders alive, as well as several prominent members of the gang, and had sent them under escort to the provincial capital, but that T'an Urh had died *ên route*. Memorialist at once sent to have the corpse inspected, and gave orders for the head to be cut off and exposed at Luchow, the Prefect of which place was ordered to examine the prisoners and satisfy himself that they were actually members of the gang, and, this being established, to execute them summarily without more ado. The memorial goes on to describe with great minuteness a series of engagements with the various remnants of this and other gangs, who reformed with pertinacious audacity, resulting finally in their complete annihilation or dispersion and the restoration of order and security. In conclusion, honorary rewards are solicited for the officers who have shown particular energy and activity in the operations above described.

June 23rd.—(1) A postscript memorial from Yung Lu, President of the Court of Censors, and other heads of the metropolitan Government, detailing the manner in which they propose to send back the famine refugees at present in Peking, in obedience to an Imperial decree calling for an expression of opinion from them on the subject. In the month of May last, Their Majesties the Empresses were graciously pleased to bestow upon the Governor of Shun-t'ien the sum of Tls. 14,000, with instructions to expend it in sending back refugees to their homes, and he has been enabled to send away with this money 2,676 persons to thirty-three departments and districts in the province of Chihli, the plan adopted having been to provide each person with a pass, a ration allowance of 200 *cash* per day for adults and half that amount for children while on their journey, and a lump sum per head for travelling expenses computed according to the distance each person had to go, with one tael per head as a capital upon which to recommence. These refugees were divided into two parties, those bound East and those bound West. Persons for places on the eastern route were sent in daily lots to Tientsin by empty boats returning there; those bound West were sent by carts, which were hired for them at each stage, to Ting-hing-hien, from which places they were to be severally passed on by the authorities to their respective homes. It was the intention of memorialists to adopt the same plan with refugees from other provinces, but they were deterred by want of funds. Having now been called upon by His Majesty to consider a set of rules under which this work should be carried on, they would submit that one of the first things that has to be ascertained is, who are willlng to go back, and who prefer to remain. The first news of rain having fallen was sufficient of itself to induce those who had land to cultivate and the means of doing so, to go back on their own account without waiting to be sent. Those who continue to remain on are all men whose homes are in ruins and their kinsfolk dead, and who prefer to go elsewhere for subsistence, as they have no means of making a living at their native place. Unless, therefore, these can be provided for them they have no hankering to go back, and will delay doing so as long as they can. Memorialists, therefore, after careful deliberation, have decided to adopt a modification of the system pursued in the case of the Shun-t'ien prefecture. The time has now arrived when the Peking relief agencies are generally closed, in order that an inducement may not be held out to those that benefit by them to remain in perpetuity. Amongst these, however, there are always a few aged and sickly ones who cannot be abruptly dismissed; added to which, only thirty per cent. of the recipients of relief are strangers from other parts, so that even if these were provided with funds and sent back, seventy per cent. of the local poor suddenly find themselves without the means of subsistence, and it is certain that the death of all the aged and weak would inevitably result therefrom, while the more vigorous would become desperate and take to dangerous courses, in which are to be found the germs of disturbance. With a view to meeting this difficulty, the memorialists accordingly propose to give publicity to the fact that the time has now arrived when the relief agencies should be closed, and warn refugees that they should begin to consider the necessity of returning to their homes, orders being at the same time given to certain officers to ascertain

by enquiry who are ready to return amongst the refugees from Wu-ts'ing and other departments and districts in Chihli, numbering thirty-nine in all; as well as those from Shantung, Shênsi, Honan and Shansi, and the thirty-three districts in the Ho-kien and other prefectures. To all such persons passes will be given, and they will be sent off in detachments on certain days, those from the Tientsin prefecture being, as before, sent down by boat. The remainder will be sent to Chu-chow, as this is a central point to which the roads from almost every province converge. Each refugee will be furnished with funds for the journey, in addition to which all natives of Chihli and Shantung will be given one tael as a capital upon which to start on their return, and four taels will be granted for the same purpose to natives of Shansi, Honan and Shênsi. The authorities along the line of route will be directed to afford them protection and assistance, letters being at the same time written to the high authorities of the provinces concerned, requesting that on their arrival at their homes they may be treated kindly and enabled to settle down in peace and comfort. The aged and weakly who cannot be summarily sent away, will be temporarily cared for in Peking, for whose benefit, as well as that of the recipients of charity whose homes are in the capital, an extension of the period for which the relief agencies are generally kept open will be applied for, until such time as the price of grain resumes its ordinary rate, and they are able to shift for themselves. This scheme will involve an expenditure that is by no means inconsiderable, and although memorialists are doing all in their power to persuade those to contribute who have the means, their appeal has, so far, been responded to by only one individual, a secretary in the Board of Revenue, who has contributed Tls. 1,000, and it is feared that the amount likely to be subscribed will not nearly suffice. They venture therefore to entreat His Majesty to grant them the sum of Tls. 20,000, that they may speedily put their project into execution. (For decree see *Gazettes* of 28th May and 10th June.)

June 24th.—(1) Memorial from T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, applying on behalf of a district Magistrate for permission to exchange his appointment for that of Director of Studies, as he is advanced in years and wishes to return to his native place to repair the family monuments and ancestral hall. The memorialist supports the application on the ground that the Magistrate has not displayed much capacity for the duties he is at present called upon to perform, and the change is in conformity with law and precedent.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office take note.

(2) Postcript memorial from the same officer to the effect that one Hwang Yi-ki, a second class Assistant Secretary in the Board of Revenue, and Tsêng Kin-chang, Secretary of the Grand Secretariat, who, by Imperial command, accompanied the late Yuan Pao-hêng on his special mission to Honan, have reported to memorialist that, having completed the business which they had immediately in hand, they purpose returning at once to Peking to report themselves for duty in the capital.—Rescript: Noted.

(3) Postscript memorial by the Office of Gendarmerie, and the heads of other offices of the metropolitan government, reporting that the sum of Tls. 3,000 and 2,000 piculs of millet which His Majesty was pleased to grant some three months ago for the maintenance of the relief agencies in the metropolis being now expended, they propose to limit the issue of rations to one meal *per diem*, commencing from the middle of the 5th moon, and beg that a further grant of Tls. 1,500 and 1,000 piculs of rice may be made them for this purpose. (Granted by decree earlier issued.)

(4) Memorial by Chang P'ei-lun, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, praying Their Majesties to take rigorous precautions against internal disquiet, and give publicity to certain facts, with a view to allaying popular suspicion and quieting the public mind. It is the practice of virtue alone that can influence the powers of Heaven, and nothing but the manifestation of a quiet and unruffled spirit will allay growing tumult; and unless fundamental principles be attended to, the mere display of uneasiness and alarm in high places will not only be insufficient to suppress disturbance, but will even be the means of exciting the same. For the last month or more evil rumours have been rife, and more than one wild and weird story has been spread abroad, causing much fear and trepidation as they are bandied about from mouth to mouth, which has been increased by the fact of the Peking Field Force having been lately stationed within the "Forbidden City." The memorialist does not pretend to be able to unravel or explain the utterances of spirits or of demons, nor does he lay claim to the art of interpreting signs or predicting their fulfilment, but he ventures to consider that the success of the Sacred

Rule and the secret of princely Government consist in their being based on sure and level foundations, and rising true and straight therefrom. Granted that unforeseen complications even then arise as the result of idle and unfounded talk utterly unworthy of belief, a return to a better condition of things must be compassed by the cultivation of virtue. It is [equally] impossible to guarantee that heterodox doctrines shall not spring up, but their evil effects can be guarded against by the rigorous application of the tithing system, and the stern enunciation of the prohibitions regarding the entry into the Imperial gates. A decree was, it is true, issued some time ago upon the former subject, but then the so-called "rigorous" prosecution of the system consisted in the pasting of a ticket over each man's door, and nothing more. The miscellaneous admixture of good and bad characters remained therefore just the same. A decree was also issued positively enunciating the restrictions that were to be exercised with regard to entry into the Imperial gates. The positiveness with which this was given effect to consisted in denying entrance to any man who had not an official hat upon his head, or who did not wear a long-skirted coat. This was all that was done, and the motley crowd passed to and fro just as it did before. If attention be not given to these matters, but a wavering and timorous policy be pursued in other quarters, should unforeseen complications arise and sedition spring up within the forbidden precincts, then, though efficient troops exist outside the Imperial city, they will arrive too late upon the scene, and cannot therefore be depended on. People from every part are gathered together in the capital, and the kind of search demanded by the tithing system is, without doubt, by no means easy, but is this a reason why the search should not be made? The memorialist would, then, beg Their Majesties to call upon the Office of Gendarmerie to see that genuine efforts are put forth in this direction in execution of the commands already issued, that mere perfunctory obedience may not be allowed to do duty for honest performance thereof. Restrictions as to the right of entry into the Palace should, too, be rigidly enforced. No one who is not bound on an errand to Their Majesties, or is not about to be presented to them, should be allowed to enter, for effective scrutiny becomes extremely difficult when a host of persons are coming and going with drafts for submission to Presidents or Vice-Presidents of Boards, or are escorting officials who are summoned for presentation to His Majesty. The Shen Wu and Ts'ang Ch'ên gates are those by which eunuchs and artificers have exit and ingress, and should be guarded with particular caution, lest ignorant eunuchs should [unwittingly] introduce persons of doubtful character, while a miscellaneous crowd is continually gathered in the courts outside the King Yün and Lung Tsung gates, amongst whom it is still more difficult to guarantee the absence of the idle and the reprobate. The guards at the various gates are by no means invariably able-bodied and efficient, nor are their weapons generally in perfect order, while the complement of each company may not be full, in which case, it may be asked, are they in a position to make a stand when called upon? The memorialist, then, would beg Their Majesties to call upon the Ministers of the Presence, and the other high officers whose duty it is, to consider a code of regulations whereby the restrictions regarding the right of entry into the Palace may be rigidly enforced. And, similarly, that the office of the Imperial Household may be instructed to keep a careful watch over the eunuchs distributed throughout the Palace, and summarily eject any whose actions are suspicious, or who abide not by law and custom. Nor must eunuchs be allowed to communicate one to the other the idle stories that are circulating outside, or take occasion to invent the same, lest they reach the Heavenly hearing. His Majesty is yet of tender years; how then can He be permitted to give ear to the language of heterodoxy? The memorialist, therefore would humbly entreat Their Majesties to redouble the measure of their precautions, and prohibit the narration of any stories that have the slightest tendency towards the improper. He would also pray Their Majesties to issue a decree calling upon their servants and people in these latter days of national calamity to examine into and rectify their conduct, trying to remedy what they see to be wrong. The tithing system should not be neglected, because there are many to be included in the scrutiny that is required. The precautions that have recently been taken, have no other object than to serve as a protection against burglary and theft, and as the sealed report recently submitted by the Board of Astronomy has been the cause of considerable surmise and agitation, the memorialist would suggest, if the publication thereof would have no injurious effect [upon political

interests,] that it be made public in order that popular suspicion may be dissolved. The Peking Field Force having now been drafted into the Imperial city, their abrupt withdrawal need not be considered, but memorialist would beg Their Majesties to give orders that they fulfil their duty as protectors quietly and unostentatiously. At the present time, when the heart of Heaven is so favourable [in its manifestations], and timely rain has refreshed the land, the tide of fortune having turned, memorialist would be glad to see Their Majesties the Empresses and the Emperor more than ever reverentially grateful, more than ever earnest in the rectification of self, more than ever diligent [in the performance of their respective duties], that they may provoke the fostering love of Heaven, that shall protect them within and without. Let them also be strictly careful in the quietness of the attitude they maintain, and give no ear to floating gossip of whatever kind it be. Then let strange misfortunes come. The cultivation of virtue will bring again [the happy days.] Let evil machinations [find a vent]—precaution will prevent the threatened disturbance. But if, as this visitation of drought and dearth gradually disappears, the remembrance thereof begins to fade away, rigorous action being neglected in places where it ought to be enforced and ready credence given to talk which should not gain belief, a feeling of disgust and uncertainty being thus revealed and precautions neglected in the inner places, then your slave ventures to apprehend that eunuchs will take advantage of this condition of things, and designing characters will not be slow to bring forth their evil machinations. Thus, what are in name measures for the prevention of disturbance, will prove to be the very means of facilitating and encouraging its growth. In this case, who shall dare to ask what the condition of the Empire will be? (For decree see *Gazette* of 11th June.)

June 25th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, directing the Imperial College of Inscriptions to prepare memorial boards for certain temples in that province, the presiding deities of which have manifested their divine power in answer to prayer, and caused abundance of rain to fall throughout the south eastern portion of Shansi.

(2) A decree conferring the appointment of Groom of the Library upon Yeh Ta-choh 葉大焯.

(3) Memorial by the Board of Astronomy to which Hwang T'i-fang had requested that publicity might be given (see *Gazette* of June 10th and 24th) respecting the signs and portents to be gathered from the appearance of the sun and of the heavens, which have recently presented a strange aspect for several days in succession. After quoting various astrological works showing the calamities that certain phases of the sun and moon portend, the memorialists go on to state that the officers and students on duty at the Imperial Observatory have reported that in the early part of the 4th moon the sun was observed to present a dull red appearance for several days in succession. The memorialists, whose explanations are quoted verbatim in the decree on the subject issued in the *Gazette* of the 10th June, report that these phenomena are not predictive of any inauspicious event.

(4) Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szech'wan, solicits the bestowal of a mark of Imperial approbation upon the widow of an ex-Magistrate, who devoted her life to the care of her deceased husband's aunt, whose life she prolonged for twelve months by administering soup to her made from flesh cut from her own arm. The widow died two months afterwards from the effects of her self-mutilation: Granted by Rescript.

June 26th.—(1) A Decree. Some time since, in consequence of the fluctuations in the price of copper *cash*, a large number of the money-shops in the capital had to close, thereby seriously affecting the well-being of the people, and We directed the Office of Gendarmerie uncompromisingly to arrest all coiners of money who had no authority to do so, and to take satisfactory measures for keeping under [the popular excitement.] This office now memorialises that no small number of money-shops have closed in consequence of the fluctuations in the price of *cash* caused by the admixture of *cash* illegally coined with that in circulation on the market, and the rejection [by the public] of inferior small *cash* (as distinguished from the *tang she ch'ien*, or large Peking *cash*); and that they now propose, as a preliminary penalty, to expose in the cangue on the streets all persons that they may arrest for causing trouble or annoyance in connection with this panic, as well as those who have taken advantage of it to plunder or to steal, together with the members of the various "rings" who are intentionally [fostering the panic] with the idea of decamping hereafter with the profits they can make out of it. After exposure

for a certain length of time, they shall be further dealt with as the law requires. Several unauthorised manufacturers of *cash* have already been arrested and sent to the Board of Punishments to be dealt with. They further report that during the past few days a quieter tone has prevailed in the money market. Let the office in question repeat their instructions to the officers under their control to continue to adopt satisfactory measures for the restitution [of commercial tranquillity], whereby designing and dishonest merchants may be prevented from reaping a profit from this crisis, and causing trouble and embarrassment to the resident population. Let them also continue their efforts for the arrest of unauthorised coiners, that the importance may be attached to the coinage system which the gravity of the interests involved demands.

(2) Memorial by T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shansi, recording his appreciation of the public spirit and generosity that have been displayed by Hu Kwang-jung, expectant Taotai in Kiangsi, who has responded to an appeal for aid in behalf of the sufferers from famine in Shênsi by a contribution of Tls. 50,000, disclaiming all merit for his liberality, and deprecating an application to His Majesty for the bestowal of a mark of approbation. The Governor-General Tso Tsung-t'ang who thoroughly appreciates the public spirited charity of Hu Kwang-jung, which he possesses to a degree seldom to be met with amongst men of his class, and who has written to the memorialist in most flattering terms of the energy and activity displayed by him in the forwarding of military stores for the North-western campaign, will doubtless have brought to His Majesty's notice merits which should not be allowed to remain unproclaimed. The memorialist therefore makes no special application on behalf of Hu Kwang-jung; but he feels it his duty to report to His Majesty another case deserving of recognition. Li Ying, a notable resident in the San-yuan district, when on his death bed last year, directed his secondary wife, whose maiden name was Ch'ên, and his son, a lad of tender years, to pay over to the famine fund after his death the sum of Tls. 35,000. The woman handed this sum to the Magistrate of the district, and sent a messenger to say that in contributing the money she was but fulfilling her dying lord's commands, and could not venture to consent to an application on her behalf for the bestowal of a mark of Imperial approbation. For three generations past the deceased notable's family have been renowned for their charitable deeds, his father having, in the 26th year of Tao Kwang, when great distress prevailed, undertaken the sole and undivided responsibility of supporting the inhabitants of over eighty villages, for which meritorious act the late Lin Tsê-hü, who was Governor at the time, obtained for him an honorary distinction. Li Ying himself, too, during his lifetime indulged in repeated acts of charity, and his secondary wife, who while charged with the nurture and care of her little son, did not forget the duty that she owed to mankind, and paid such implicit obedience to her lord's command, has displayed a sincere pleasure in doing good and a love of charity. So many instances of good feeling in one family are rarely to be met with, and memorialist would beg His Majesty to display His appreciation thereof by the bestowal of the appointment of second class Secretary of a Board upon Li Ki-shan, son of the deceased, with orders that he be entered at the Board to learn his duties as soon as he arrives at the proper age. It will be for His Majesty to decide whether it be fitting that a title of honor commensurate with the rank of her little child be bestowed upon his mother.—Rescript: Let Li Ki-shan be placed on the list of second Secretaries for immediate employment, and let him go to the Board to learn his duties so soon as he shall have arrived at the proper age. Let a title of honor commensurate with the rank of her son be conferred upon Li Ch'ên-she

June 27th.—(1) Memorial by T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shênsi, denouncing six officials, district magistrates and others, for carelessness in the supervision of arrangements in connection with the issue of relief in their respective jurisdictions, and requesting their summary dismissal as a warning to others.—Granted by decree earlier issued.

(2) Postscript memorial by Kin Shun, Military Governor of Ili, in answer to a council despatch informing him that he had been directed by His Majesty to nominate an officer for the acting post of Imperial Agent at Kharashar. He subsequently received a communication from Tso Tsung-t'ang to the effect that on the destruction of the official residence [of the Agent] at Kharashar by the waters of the Tuh River which were let into the city by the Andijanis, a district magistrate was sent to the town with funds wherewith to undertake the work of re-organisation, and to establish an agency for that purpose. On the return of the Turgut Mongols to the town, it

would be the duty of the officer in charge of the aforesaid agency to look after them, and it appeared to him that an application for the appointment of an officer as acting Agent might be deferred for a time. Under these circumstances the memorialist considers it his duty to defer recommending an officer for appointment to the acting vacancy in question.

(3) Fu Erh-sun, Deputy Lieutenant-General at Cha-p'u, reports having handed over temporary charge of his seals of office to the Deputy Lieutenant-General at Hang Chow, preparatory to leaving for Peking to have audience of His Majesty at the conclusion of his third period of service.

June 28th.—(1) A decree announcing the result of an investigation into a charge of appropriating Government money to his own use, and other malpractices of a similar nature, brought by the Censor Têng Ts'ing-lin against one Tsing Hwei, a Superintendent of the Court of Imperial Entertainment. These charges have not in any instance been sustained, but King Hwei has been found to have displayed gross carelessness in the conduct of business entrusted to him, and it is hereby decreed that he be deprived of the various offices which he now holds, and handed over to the Board for the adjudication of a penalty. The Yamên whose duty it is are to consider as to the length of time to be allowed for making good three thousand brass utensils belonging to his department that are found to be missing, and are to submit an expression of their views as to the propriety of appointing a coadjutor in the offices in question, with a view to checking the excercise of undivided responsibility and the performance of unauthorised acts.

(2) Memorial by Wu Yuan-ping, Acting Governor-General of the Two Kiang provinces, reporting the result of the rehearing of an appeal case in which one Kao Ki-tê, a native of the Su district in Kiangsu, charged Sun Chao-yü, alias Sun Ping-che, with abducting his younger sister, a widow, and forcibly marrying her to another man, which so mortified her that she hanged herself. The case having, in the usual manner, been first heard by the provincial judge, the memorialist was about to have the parties before him for a final hearing when he was informed that the complainant Kao Ki-tê had died from sickness in the house of detention. Whereupon the judge, who had just been through the case, reported the particulars with a request that they might be submitted to His Majesty. They are as follows:—Kao Ki-tê, Sun Chao-yü, and Sun Chao-wu are all natives of the Su district; the late Chang Kao. She was Kao Ki-tê's younger sister, and Sun Chao-yü, who was a constant visitor, was his first cousin. The woman Chang was married to a man of that name, who died and left her so badly off that she expressed her willingness to marry again if she could find a partner to her liking, but this she failed for a long time to do. At length, in the month of February, 1874, Kao Ki-tê's younger brother died, and the widow Chang went to pay a visit of condolence, remaining a few days in the house, at the end of which time Kao Ki-tê escorted her back to her home. They passed Sun Chao-yü's house on their way, and Sun's sister happening to see them, invited the widow to come and stay a while, who herself was anxious to go in and rest, but Kao Ki-tê refused his consent on the ground that it was getting late and it would be difficult to find their way in the dark. An altercation here ensued between the two, which attracted the notice of Sun Chao-yü and his younger brother, as well as some of the neighbours, who one and all abused Kao Ki-tê and declared he was in the wrong, whereupon he went angrily away, having no reply to make, and proceeded straight to his sister's home to tell her father-in-law. The father-in-law replied that it was a common thing for a woman to pass the night at a relation's house, and he could not see what Kao had to be angry at. The widow stayed the night at Sun Chao-yü's house, where she slept with his younger sister; and the next morning, seeing that Sun Wu, the younger brother, himself washed the clothes and prepared his meal before going out to teach, he being a schoolmaster, helped him in his work, and so pleased Sun Wu by her exhibition of thrift and industry that he wished to marry her, and got someone to make her an offer. She replied that her brother and father-in-law were both avaricious men and would be certain to refuse their consent to so poor a match, so that she would recommend that the marriage be secretly contracted unbeknown to them. Sun Chao-yü having no objection to his younger brother's marriage upon the matter being explained to him, it was consummated a few days afterwards. When Kao Ki-tê heard of it, he came to the conclusion that, taken in connection with the occurrences of a few days before, his sister had been forced into a marriage, and imparted his suspicions to her father-in-law, who complained to the Magistrate, and he ruled that the widow must be sent back to her father-in-law's house pending the result

of the enquiry. On her return she did nothing but cry, and told a neighbour that she was sure to be punished for marrying Sun Wu, and that they would be parted, in which case the sooner she died the better. Her friend consoled and pacified her, but her misery and unhappiness were too much for her and she hanged herself shortly afterwards. Then a series of cross-actions arose. Sun Chao-yü and his brother, fearing Kao Ki-tê would give them trouble, laid a complaint against him. He made a counter charge against them, and, impatient at the delay that ensued in the hearing of his case, took it to a higher court, and eventually appealed to Peking. After summarising these facts as reported by the judge, the memorialist proceeds to detail the sentences he has passed, or would have passed. Kao Ki-tê for forming a hasty conclusion upon which he based an appeal, would, had he lived, have received eighty blows. Sun Chao-yü, being a man of education, should have known better than to allow his younger brother to act in an unbecoming manner, and is accordingly sentenced to forty blows, which, as a literary man, he is allowed to commute by a monetary payment. Sun Wu died in the house of detention, so his penalty need not be considered.

June 29th.—(1) A decree ordering the Board of Punishments to deal in the most rigorous manner with one Liu Hung-ngên, a criminal working out a sentence of banishment, who Ming An, military Governor of Kirin, reports to have surreptitiously made his way to his native place, and to have returned to his place of banishment when he heard that orders were out for his arrest.

(2) Joint memorial by Mu T'u-shan, Lieutenant-General at Ch'a-har and Kwei-ch'ang, Deputy Lieutenant-General at the same station, reporting the capture and summary execution, in accordance with Imperial sanction specially given, of numerous members of gangs of mounted banditti, burglars, and highway robbers, that abounded in the region beyond the Wall, and in the country immediately inside it. Comparative safety has now been secured. The merchant and traveller find themselves less hampered in their movements, the resident bannerman enjoys a feeling of security, and the wandering herdsman moves his flocks with greater freedom than before.

No other documents of importance.

June 30th.—(Abstracts of memorials.) Yên King-ming, Famine Commissioner in Shansi, requests permission to continue the issue of relief until the 8th moon, when it may be discontinued.—Granted by Rescript.

(1) A decree conferring the following appointments:—Junior Deputy Supervisor of Instruction, Pao T'ing 寶廷. Senior Assistant Secretary, Imperial Supervisorate of Instruction, Ngên Ch'êng 恩承. Junior Assistant Secretary, Liang Kwei 良貴. Censor of the Honan circuit, Ngên Ming 恩明; of the Hu Kwang circuit, Ngo Kw'un 鄂錕; of the Shansi circuit, Kw'ei Nien 桂年; of the Fuhk'ien circuit, Fu Ta-chang 傅大章.

(2) Memorial by Wang Wu-lwan, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, calling attention to the laxity of the supervision that is maintained over the Manchu garrison established at Hangchow. A garrison of these troops has now been established at Hangchow for over two hundred years, and until recently the soldiers have conducted themselves in an orderly manner and been on excellent terms with the people. Since the destruction of their quarters and the breaking up of the garrison during the late rebellion, detachments of bannermen have been drafted from King-chow, Tê-chow, and Foochow, for the protection of Hangchow; an admirable arrangement in itself, if only the troops were kept in proper order, but unfortunately they are not. The former Tartar General did attempt, in consequence of the constant fracas that occurred between his men and the people, to check the license of the former by the establishment of two military courts at the gate of the garrison, in which cases of this description were summarily dealt with, to the general convenience and satisfaction. But under the régime of the present Tartar General even this precaution has been relaxed, as well as other rules for the maintenance of order and discipline, with the result that these troops are become daily more turbulent and ferocious, and disturbances are constantly occurring. The memorialist then goes on to narrate the circumstances of the murder of a shopkeeper by a Manchu soldier, which have already been summarised in a decree of the 16th inst. directing the immediate arrest of the murderer in accordance with the memorialist's application.

(3) Memorial by Ngo-lo-ho-pu Military Governor at Uliasut'ai, and the two assistant-Governors, conveying the thanks of Prince

To-êrh-ki-p'a-la-ma, *Dzassak*, or chief, of the Dzassakt'u tribe, one of the four great divisions of the Khalka nation, for permission to succeed to the title. He had received a communication from the Prince to the effect that he was in receipt of instructions from the Mongolian Superintendency, stating that they had been informed by the *Mêng Chang*, or Captain-General, of the Dzassakt'u tribe, that it was proposed to give the vacant title of *To-lo Kün Wang*, or Prince of the second order over the Dzassakt'u tribe, to the Duke T'o-êrh-ki-p'a-la-ma, the son of the late Prince, who had recommended him for the succession. As, however, T'o-erh-ki-p'a-la-ma, who was twenty-one years of age, had not yet had the small pox, he could not go to Peking. The Captain-General requested that this fact might be reported to His Majesty. The name of Duke T'o-erh-ki-p'a-la-ma, son of the late Ch'e-lin-jui-to-pu, by whom he was recommended for the succession, was also appended to this representation. The Mongolian Superintendency having reported the matter to His Majesty, the Imperial sanction was obtained to the succession, and the Superintendency had to instruct him, the Prince, to that effect. As he read this communication while kneeling reverently upon the ground, the Prince was filled with the deepest gratitude. He immediately took over his seals of office and entered upon his duties. While humbly acknowledging himself to be a Mongol slave of inferior ability, perfectly unable to repay in the slightest degree the Imperial favours of which his family have been the recipients for generations past, he declares his intention of performing his duties to the best of his feeble powers. In accordance with precedent, he turned himself towards the palace and beat his head upon the ground at Uliasutai on the 5th of the 4th moon, in grateful acknowledgment of the Imperial bounty, and he now begged memorialist to inform His Majesty of the fact, which, as in duty bound, memorialist hereby does.

July 1st.—(1) A decree expressing the Imperial regret at the intelligence of the decease of Yi Shan, late Captain-General of a Banner Corps, who retired at the age of upwards of eighty years on his full salary and with the title of *Chên-kwoh-tsiang-kün*, or noble of the Imperial lineage ninth in descent. A *To-lo* pall is to be bestowed upon him, the *Bei-lêh* Tsai Jung is to go to his residence with ten officers of the Imperial Guard to offer a funeral libation, and Tls. 1,000 are granted for the expenses attendant upon his obsequies. The title of *Lang-chung* or senior Secretary of a Board, is bestowed upon his great grandson, a *Ying-shêng* of the first degree of official rank.

(2) Postscript memorial by Tso Tsung-t'ang appealing, on behalf of Liu Tien, his coadjutor, for permission to vacate his post next autumn, in order that he may minister to his mother, an old lady upwards of eighty-seven years of age, now in declining health, and at the same time recruit his own energies, which are much in need of repose. Liu Tien has now been associated with memorialist for a period of three years, and the condition of tranquillity that has been secured amongst the Mahommedan and Chinese population as well as the friendly feeling that exists between the soldiery and people afford ample proof of the success of his administration, while the natives of Shênsi and Kansuh, whether officials, notables, gentry, common people, regular troops, or militia, have had such proofs either ocular or from hearsay, of the success of his military efforts and the economy with which they were carried out, as well as of his devotion to the cause of education, that it is unnecessary for memorialist to enlarge further upon them. He and memorialist have ever been of one mind, to such a degree that, while concerned in the conduct of matters beyond the frontier he had no anxiety whatever as to the condition of affairs within it administered by Liu Tien. At the present time, although military operations in the New Dominion are at an end, if permanent tranquillity is to be secured no better system can be adopted than the division of the country into prefectures and districts as in the eighteen provinces of China proper. The initiation of so important an undertaking as this, however, requires extreme care, and although the Chên Ti circuit in Sungaria, or the *Pêh Lu*, has been brought under this system, since the extermination of the rebels [owing to] the indiscriminate mixture of the Chinese and Mussulman population, the operations of the troops left a residue of Chinese population amounting to more than ten or twenty per cent. of the original number, with the result that a vast extent of uncultivated land meets the gaze on every side. Efforts are now being made, with a slight promise of success, to induce immigration, but until the Military Governor of Urumtsi and the Military Governor of Ili have given the matter their careful consideration, it will be impossible to form

any decision which can be reported to His Majesty. As regards the *Nan Lu*, or Kashgaria, the country from Turfan to the eight cities has long been in the occupation of the Andijanis, and although the Imperial army has made a clean sweep of them, and not a rebel remains, so that the Mahommedan subjects of China are residing there with the tranquillity and security they formerly enjoyed, and matters are farther advanced than is the case with Sungaria, the work of division of the country into prefectures and districts requires careful survey and the exercise of watchful scrutiny to ascertain the comparative fertility of the soil in the various districts, with a view to determining the amount of taxation to be levied. Until Liu Tien and T'ang Chang-yo shall have carefully considered these questions, and others of a similar nature, with the heads of the various committees of re-organisation, it will be impossible to arrive at any decision which can be reported to His Majesty. There are a thousand and one complications connected with the initiation of this scheme which add considerably to the difficulties which have to be contended against, and as correspondence [with the provincial capital] would occupy upwards of two months in going and returning, the memorialist considers it his duty, enfeebled though he is, to continue to reside temporarily at the frontier until the arrangements that are to be made shall be definitively settled. Just at the present time arrangements are on foot within the frontier for changing the commissariat of the army from a marching to a stationary footing, with a view to economy, and it is absolutely necessary, if these arrangements are to be complete and thoroughly efficient, that the sole direction of them be vested in Liu Tien. Liu Tien is a man of a strong frame and vigorous constitution, but the cold and hardships entailed by residence on the frontier have rendered him liable to disease, and he now suffers regularly every winter from cough, secretion of phlegm, and other pulmonary complaints, accompanied by dizziness. Memorialist, who suffers from the same ailments though in a less degree, sent persons to see him from time to time, and from the accounts they gave of his body bowed with pain and his asthmatic groans, he knows the extent of his disease as accurately as though he had seen him with his own eyes. The news of his aged mother's sickness has added to Liu Tien's troubles, for he is in a constant state of anxiety about her, and memorialist, though he has repeatedly endeavoured with words of solace to induce him to remain, feels that he ought not longer to keep back from His Majesty a knowledge of his condition. During the heat of summer is not the time for a sick man to travel, and as Liu Tien is not likely to have completed the work he has in hand before the early autumn, the memorialist would suggest that he be then allowed to vacate his post and return to his native place. (For decree see *Gazette* of 16th June.)

(3) In a postscript memorial, the same officer requests that Yang Ch'ang-kün, late Governor of Chêkiang, may be appointed to the post to be vacated by Liu Tien. In the year 1860, when memorialist was directed to undertake operations against the Andijanis, Yang Chang-kün, with Liu Tien and the late Wang K'ai-hwa, assisted him, and it would be difficult again to find a quaternity of persons amongst whom such perfect accord prevailed. When Yang Ch'ang-kün was dismissed on account of the Yü Han-hien case, a diversity of opinion existed as to the measure of his guilt, and though there is certainly no occasion for memorialist to put in his word, he cannot refrain from remarking that the reflections of the people of Chêkiang on the subject are sufficient proof that they, at all events, have no personal cause of complaint against him. His Majesty having been pleased to make enquiries about Liu Tien, it became the duty of memorialist to apply for permission for him to vacant his post, and as memorialist cannot be in two places at once, it behoves him at once to secure the services of a military coadjutor in place of Liu Tien. He therefore prays His Majesty of His goodness to direct Yang Ch'ang-kün to proceed at once to Lan-chow. This request is made with a view to present requirements, and he would not venture under these circumstances to shrink from a recommendation [which he thinks will be beneficial to public interests.] (For decree see *Gazette* of 16th June.)

July 2nd.—(1) Postscript memorial by Li Hung-chang reporting the measures he has taken to provide the inhabitants of the districts in Chihli, where distress prevails to the greatest extent, with seed corn to enable them to sow their crops after the rains which have now fallen in abundance throughout the whole of the province. Fu-ch'êng, Hien-hien, Kiao-ho, King-chow, Tung-kwang, and other places in the Ho-kien prefecture, have suffered most severely from famine, and the inhabitants were

unprovided with seed corn to enable them to resume their agricultural operations, so the sum of Tls. 30,000 was borrowed from the Coast Defence Fund for this purpose, and contributions were invited to aid the work. The distribution of the money was entrusted to Wu Ta-chêng, Compiler of the Han-lin, the Taotai Shêng Süan-hwai, and the sub-prefect Li Kin-yung, who were also authorised to expend the proceeds of the sale of grain at reduced rates, as well as local contributions, on the same object, while the local gentry were called upon to borrow all they could upon the spot. At Fu-ch'êng, contributions raised by Li Kin-jung's friends were all that was expended; at Hien-hien, Tls. 10,000 of the Tls. 30,000 above alluded to were employed, and the balance used at Ching-chow; besides which a further appropriation of Tls. 10,000 was made from the same fund for use at Tung-kwang-hien, making a total of Tls. 50,000 borrowed from this fund, which will be repaid out of contributions received from the South. The Kiao-ho district has been supplied with a sum of Tls. 15,000 raised by contributions from Peking and elsewhere. Wu Ta-chêng and his colleagues had just written to say that they would require at least Tls. 20,000 more for Tung-kwang and Kiao-hó, when memorialist had the honor to receive an Imperial decree authorising a further appropriation of Tls. 20,000 from the fund raised by the Minister Superintendent of Trade for the Southern ports, for Shansi and Honan. The intelligence of this further proof of compassionate interest on the part of the Court has filled the hearts of officials and people with the deepest gratitude, moving them even to tears. The money has been forwarded to Wu Ta-chêng, under the charge of officers travelling day and night, and will be apportioned by him for distribution in the Kiao-ho and Tung-kwang districts.

(2) Postscript memorial by the same officer with reference to the agencies established by him in Peking for the sale of grain at reduced rates. He has already reported to His Majesty how the Taotai Chu K'i-ang, at the head of the China Merchants' Co., had been deputed to purchase Southern rice with funds borrowed from the Maritime Defence Fund, and how certain officers were sent to Peking to establish three agencies for its sale outside the Chêng-yang and other gates. It having been subsequently determined to purchase rice from Feng-t'ien for the same purpose, a further sum of Tls. 50,000 was borrowed from the same fund, and a grant of Tls. 40,000 was given by the Board of Revenue, which Chu K'i-ang was directed to expend in the purchase of this grain and its conveyance to its destination. Chu K'i-ang being now dead, Chu K'i-chao (his brother), also in the employ of the China Merchants' Co., has been directed to reside at Tientsin and carry on this work, another officer being sent to Peking to assist in superintending the sales. As the *tsa liang*, or miscellaneous cereals (such as millet, Indian corn, etc.) have to be ground before they can be eaten, and only the shops that sell them are possessed of the requisite mills or stones for grinding them, it is now proposed either to sell this description of grain at one or two tael mace below the market rate, in any quantities from one or two *sheng* to several piculs, by which means the shops that grind it will be enabled, having bought it at a cheap rate, to sell it at a reduction, and the people thus benefit thereby; or, to select wealthy and substantial corn factors, who will grind the corn and deliver the flour at the agencies. The officers in charge of these agencies have been directed to adopt the plan which shall appear the more advantageous, after consultation with the metropolitan authorities. Now that abundance of rain has fallen throughout the province, and cultivation has everywhere ensued, these agencies can be withdrawn in the 8th moon, when the harvests have been gathered, and the price of grain has resumed its ordinary rate.

July 3rd.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Ch'ung How, Military Governor of Shêng-king, directing the abandonment of all further consideration of a proposal to remove some of the Imperial clansmen *(tsung she)* in Peking to Shêng-king. Some proposals of this officer for the official advancement of the Imperial clansmen, who have already been moved to Shêng-king, are referred to the Imperial Clan Court for consideration. (See *Gazettes* of November 9th and 23rd, 1877.)

(2) A decree permitting Li Chao-t'ang, Provincial Judge of Chihli, to vacate his post on account of ill-health.

(3) A decree directing the dismissal of a charge of allowing his official underlings to squeeze and annoy traders and people, exacting fees from gambling houses and other establishments, and allowing a notorious brigand to escape, brought against Shao Show-pi, Prefect of Ch'ang-tu Fu, in the province of Fêng-t'ien, Ch'ung How having ascertained from enquiry that the statements made by the Censor Shih T'ai, who brought the charges, are utterly at

variance with fact. Orders are given to the metropolitan authorities to look for one Fei Tsung-yao, an assistant Magistrate, who made false reports to his superior officer, and is now said to be in Peking spreading about calumnious stories.

(4) Joint memorial by Li Hung-chang and Shêng Pao-chêng, Ministers Superintendent of Trade for the northern and southern ports respectively, and Wu Yuan-ping, who is acting in the latter capacity. Having been called upon by Imperial decree on the 20th March last to consider a suggestion made by Pao T'ing, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, that, instead of raising the price of rice in the southern provinces by purchasing from them to supply the want in the North, grain should be imported from abroad; and if the suggestion seemed practicable, that officers should be sent at once to purchase it and arrange for the importation of a regular supply. On receipt of these commands orders were given to the Superintendent of Customs at Shanghai and the Agents of the China Merchants' Co. to make enquiries on the subject. Pao T'ing states in his memorial that the harvest last year at Saigon (西貢) was a good one, and rice was cheap, while freights were so low in consequence of the number of vessels in the port that the price per picul ought not to amount to more than $2 [laid down in Shanghai (?)]. The memorialists have to observe that Saigon is a portion of Annam bordering on the sea, and is a port of trade opened by the French. The Chinese Government (or China) has already established a branch agency of the China Merchants' Co. there, conducted by one Chang Lin, who has resided in the place for over twenty years and is thoroughly acquainted with the conditions and capabilities of the port, and is competent to superintend the export of rice whether as a Government undertaking or a private speculation. Additional facilities are moreover afforded by the presence of the Company's steamers, were it advisable to purchase rice at Saigon, but, as a matter of fact, it is not, for the reason that it is neither so well adapted for consumption as native rice, nor would an appreciable economy be effected by its purchase. The Shanghai Taotai and the China Merchants' Co.'s Agent report that the Saigon rice is only hulled and not cleaned, and also contains a quantity of husk, being at the same time very glutinous in quality and not at all suited to the Chinese palate. It is only in the Kwangtung province and its immediate neighbourhood that it is used in times of scarcity, and, of late, owing to floods in that province and famine in India respectively, prices have risen so much that a hundred catties of the coarse uncleaned common rice *(sien mi)* costs one dollar eighty or ninety cents. The cost of freight to Hongkong and transhipment to Tientsin would add another dollar and more to the value per picul, raising it altogether to Tls. 3.2 or Tls. 3.3 per picul of 150 catties, or about two to three mace less than the cost of Anhwei or Kiangsu rice laid down in Tientsin, which, from its unglutinous condition, actually pays better than the former. As merchants are in a position to obtain intelligence as to the state of the market more rapidly than officials, they are sure to take advantage of the slightest margin of profit, and never fail to rush into any market where comparatively low prices rule and transport is cheap. At the present moment the majority of the Kwangtung dealers are going to Shanghai and Chinkiang for their rice, which proves conclusively that the Saigon prices are not actually lower than elsewhere. From California, flour only finds its way to Kwangtung, and costs, when laid down there, Tls. 4 per picul, which, when freight to Tientsin is added, makes it more expensive than that produced in the northern provinces. The memorialist Li Hung-chang corresponded some time since with Ho Ju-chang, Minister to Japan, with respect to a scheme he had for exporting rice and wheat from that country, but he abandoned the idea when he found that the cost of freight, added to an inability to invest to a sufficiently large amount, would cause the speculation to be a losing one. Rain has now fallen in abundance in Chihli, Shansi, and Honan, and in all three provinces it has become possible to sow the autumn crops, while supplies of rice and grain are coming in without interruption from Feng-t'ien, Kiangnan and Chêkiang, both from official and private sources, so that there is no further necessity for the importation of foreign rice. As regards Shansi in particular, the cause of the distress lies, not in a scarcity of supplies, but in the length and difficulty of the routes to be traversed, the scarcity of beasts of burden, and the excessive rates charged for porterage. Honan, which borders on Kiangsu and Anhwei, and possesses greater facilities of transport, suffers from a want of money, and not from a scarcity of grain.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) Postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang reporting that Hia Kia-kao, one of

the members of the Tsung-li Yamên, and Deputy Commissioner of the Court of Transmission, has contributed Tls. 3,000 towards the Shansi Famine Fund. — Rescript: Let a button of the second rank be bestowed upon Hia Kia-kao.

(5) Postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang requesting that Ting Jih-ch'ang, late Governor of Fuh-k'ien, may be supplied with a temporary seal and allowed to memorialise His Majesty direct, as, although he at present holds no official position, he continues actively to promote contributions to the famine fund. Since his retirement these have not been coming in with the same promptitude as before, many who had promised subscriptions not paying them, under the impression that with his retirement from official life, his connection with the famine contribution fund had ceased.—Granted by rescript.

July 4th.—(1) A decree ordering that Su Chao-yuan, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Ling Chow battalion in Kansuh, be cashiered and placed on his trial for defalcations and appropriations in connection with the transport of grain with which he was entrusted, and his refusal, when called upon, to relinquish these operations and return to his ordinary duties.

(2) A Decree. On the recent subjugation of the New Dominion, We bestowed upon Hwang Wan-p'êng, Provincial Commander-in-chief, the hereditary title of *K'i Tu Yü*. Tso Tsung-t'ang now represents that this officer was already possessed of the aforesaid title, and that in his memorial submitting the name of this officer he had erroneously given him the title of *Yün K'i Yü*, so he begs that a higher title may be conferred upon him. Let the title of *K'ing Ch'ê Tu Yü* of the second degree be substituted for the one earlier granted to this officer, and let the proper Board ascertain how the error came to be made when the memorial was drawn up.

(3) A decree appointing Kung Süan 恭鎧 to the post of Censor of the Metropolitan Circuit.

(4) Ts'ing Show 慶壽 is appointed Police Censor for the eastern division of Peking.

(5) Li Hung-chang requests the bestowal of a complimentary tablet upon one Wang Tsêng, a native of Anhwei, who for many years past has carried on business as a tea merchant in Peking. This old man, now over eighty years of age, has supported two soup or gruel kitchens at his sole expense, at which thousands have been daily fed at a cost altogether of several tens of thousands of taels. He has recently sent his son to Tientsin with an offering of Tls. 2,000 to be expended on relief work in Chihli.—Granted by Rescript.

(6) The same officer applies for the bestowal of a mark of honorary distinction upon Hia Hien-lun, Taotai of T'aiwan, who has himself contributed $1,000 towards the famine fund, and induced his colleagues to subscribe further sums which raised the total to over Tls. 3,000 laid down in Tientsin. He has also been instrumental in raising contributions amongst the gentry and people amounting to Tls. 13,600, and promises a further contribution of several tens of thousands of Taels.—Rescript: Let Hia Hien-lun be committed to the Board for the bestowal of the highest marks of honorary distinction.

(7) The same memorialist applies for a complimentary tablet on behalf of one Liu King-fên, an expectant sub-prefect, who subscribed over Tls. 1,000 to the famine fund, and mentions the names of two other officers who, having subscribed Tls. 2,000 and Tls. 3,000 respectively, are entitled to the bestowal of honorary distinctions, orders with reference to which have already been given to the office concerned.—Granted by Rescript.

(8) Postscript memorial by Yên Tsing-ming, Famine Commissioner in Shansi, and the Governor of the province, submitting some suggestions for the extension of the system of sale of offices by allowing officials holding substantive appointments to purchase exemption from periodical visits of ceremony to Peking, as well as from promotion or removal to other posts. They make these suggestions in consequence of the terrible scantiness of the funds at their disposal. The contributions received through the various agencies for the sale of titles since the commencement of the year, have been far from large, nor have the amounts contributed by other provinces been considerable. It is on public charity that the people are dependent for the prolongation of their life from one day to another, and as carts and baggage animals become scarcer day by day, while porterage has risen to several times the ordinary rate, unless funds can be provided for transport, the grain that is *en route* will be stopped half way and never reach the starving people. (See *Gazette* of 23rd May.)

July 5th.—(1) A Decree. Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan memorialises detailing his views on certain matters in his province which require immediate attention. Since the visitation of the province of Shansi by this

great evil, suffering and misery have been brought upon the inhabitants, from which they will find it hard to recover, and it becomes an imperative and immediate duty to take thought for and devise the measures that should be taken by the aid of which the people may have energy given unto them and be rescued from their present difficulties. The quantity of waste land in this province is very considerable, and the actual amount should at once be clearly ascertained and immigrants encouraged to undertake its cultivation. Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan now proposes to supply the poorer people with seed corn, and, in the case of unoccupied land, to permit any members of the actual owner's clan, or, [failing these], strangers from other provinces, to undertake its cultivation on the understanding that if the owner returns he shall be allowed to claim his land before the time for sowing the next year's crop. Should he fail to return within the space of five years, the occupier of the land shall be confirmed in possession thereof, and it shall be his in perpetuity. Let the Governor direct his subordinates to take steps for giving due and valid effect to this arrangement. When Our illustrious predecessor merged the poll tax into the land tax, there were some places in Shansi in which a partial change only was effected in this respect. We now consent to the Governor's request that a search shall be made from house to house, and wherever a poll tax is found to be levied that it shall be merged into the land tax. We also consent to a reduction being made in cases where the number of persons on which the rating was assessed has fallen off, or where the persons so assessed have disappeared altogether. The system of escuage, or of gratuitous work claimed by the Government, differs in its application in various portions of the province. We hereby sanction the Governor's proposal that escuage shall be diminished throughout the province, in order that the burden of compulsory service may not fall more heavily on one place than another, and We also consent to the total abolition of the evil system of calling on the tax collector to be responsible for taxes on uncultivated land. Department and district Magistrates must be strictly cautioned hereafter against seizing pretexts for claiming compulsory labour, and any unauthorised requisition for money [in lieu of] carts or draught animals must be punished as the law requires. The Governor will take such measures from time to time as he shall see fit, for inducing the return of those that have wandered away, for replenishing the empty granaries, readjusting the salt trade, diminution of military expenses, etc., etc., each of which measures must be attended to seriatim.

(2) A decree directing the names of certain officers to be placed on the list from which Censors are selected.

(3-4) Decrees appointing Tsai Ling 載齡 Grand Secretary of the *T'i Jên Koh*, and Ch'ung Hün 崇勳 to the post of Chief Supervisor of Instruction.

(5) A Decree. In the memorial presented this day by Kwei Fêng (Assistant Resident in Tibet,) returning thanks for the presents bestowed upon the Dalai Lama and others, characters which should have the "threefold elevation" have been wrongly placed both in the Manchu and Chinese versions. This is a gross piece of carelessness. Let Kwei Fêng be handed to the Board for the adjudication of a penalty.

(6) Postscript memorial by Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, reporting the death of Ying K'i, Judge of that province, on the 3rd June, while on his way to Peking. The deceased officer left the provincial capital on the 23rd May, and was attacked by a malarious desease shortly afterwards, which compelled him to stop at P'ing-ting-chow, where he died a week after his arrival. He was attended by three of his sons, one of whom resides in Peking with the Banner to which he belongs, and wishes to take his father's remains back to Peking. After expressing his regrets at the death of so able and devoted a servant of His Majesty, the memorialist suggests that in view of his faithful services and his earnest desire to prostrate himself in the dust at the palace gate, which was the indirect cause of his death, permission should be granted to the son to take his father's body into Peking. (For decree censuring this proposal, see *Gazette* of June 19th.)

July 6th.—(1) Postscript memorial by Yên King-ming, Governor of Shansi, reporting that he has received a representation from two brothers Chu Ki-ang (late C.M.S.N. Co.'s Agent, at Tientsin), and Chu Ki-chao, Expectant Taotais in Chêkiang and Hupeh respectively, to the effect that they had recently received a letter from their younger brother, who states that their mother Lu She had directed him to say that she was now seventy years of age, and had been permitted by Providence to peacefully to pass the remainder of her life since the rebellion in quietness and peace. It

was the duty of the writers therefore in these times of distress and starvation to aid the sufferers with money as far as they were able, selecting the districts that were most afflicted for the exercise of their charity. In obedience to their mother's command, the writers had made an effort, and got together Tls. 3,125, which they had entrusted to a *wei-yuan* from Honan on his return journey to take as far as Tao-kow for transmission from thence to the nearest office for the forwarding of supplies, to be sent for distribution in the southern part of Shansi. The writers had selected Shansi as being the province that is most afflicted, and the southern portion thereof as that in which the greatest distress prevails. The memorialist speaks in laudatory terms of the compassionate interest that prompted the mother to order her sons to come forward with subscriptions, and praises the charity that her sons displayed in their prompt response to their mother's call. He suggests that a memorial tablet may be issued to the family in token of the Imperial approbation.—Granted by Rescript.

(2) Memorial by Ngo-lo-ho-pu, Military Governor of Uliasut'ai, forwarding, in obedience to Imperial orders, a list of officers and soldiers who have distinguished themselves in operations against bands of rebels for the past two years. Since the early part of 1876, bands of Mahommedan insurgents have on repeated occasions harassed the western environs of K'obdo, as well as Po-êrh-chw'an, Kin San, and T'ang Hu in the jurisdiction of Pa-li-k'un, where their depredations were carried on in the most unbridled manner. The scene of their operations being frequently in close proximity to the town, it was but natural that considerable alarm should be felt there, and memorialist, to quiet this alarm and render all secure, posted troops at the most important points on the line of approach, and had soldiers out in every direction keeping themselves informed of the movements of the rebels. Great credit is due to the military secretaries and others, who were most diligent in the discharge of their duty, working sometimes right through the night, while the commissariat and military store department was admirably managed by the officers and men charged with the forwarding of supplies, who never once failed either in the matter of promptitude or otherwise. It is to the threatening attitude thus maintained that the town is indebted for freedom from molestation during the past year or more, for although alarming reports have been received, the rebels have never ventured to invade the territory of the four Khalkha tribes, the whole of which region has enjoyed the greatest tranquillity. Last year memorialist applied for permission to select the most deserving of the officers employed as above enumerated for the bestowal of honorary distinctions, and was honored with His Majesty's commands to the effect that the list of names might be submitted, but that discretion must be exercised in the recommendations made. A list is now forwarded of officers and men who have been selected after a year's careful observation either by memorialist or the commanders of battalions or brigades under his orders.

July 7th.—(1) Memorial by Tsêng Kwoh-t'süan, Governor of Shansi, reporting that abundance of rain has fallen throughout the province, and detailing the steps he has now taken with a view to assisting the people in their farming operations. After recalling to His Majesty's recollection the previous occasions upon which he had reported falls of rain, the last of which elicited from Him a donation of tablets for several temples, the memorial goes on to state that these tablets were duly received, and reverently suspended in the various temples to which they were severally allotted. Although refreshing and grateful showers had been obtained throughout the province during the month of May, the ground was in such a condition after the long drought that ten days after the rain had fallen it was again quite dry, and the seed that had been sown came up very scantily. In fact, nothing but a steady succession of rains would secure a harvest, and officers were accordingly again sent to the Hêng Yüeh Miao at Hwei-chow, and the Lung Shên Miao at Wu-t'ai Shan, to offer prayers and supplications, with the result that, by the blessing of Providence, a rainfall of some three inches of saturation was obtained at T'ai-yuen Fu and other places on the 8th June; and at the conclusion of the series of services nine days afterwards, rain fell almost without intermission for a couple of days, thoroughly saturating the ground, while the vaporous clouds that might have been seen clinging to the hills on every side afforded a positive indication that the fall had been universal. It is for Their Majesties, to whose attitude the vouchsafement of these blessings is due, to determine the propriety of supplying tablets to the two temples the deities of which have manifested their divine powers in so marked a manner. In the meantime, the large tracts of land that

remain uncultivated owing to the death or absence of the owners, give cause for the deepest anxiety, and memorialist and his colleagues, before the rains had fallen, gave orders to the contribution offices to endeavour to induce persons to cultivate them, and to provide seed corn for the purpose. People were also authorised to borrow on their own account from stocks of grain on sale, with the proviso that the amount should be repaid with interest on the gathering of the harvest, and, lest the holders of this grain should entertain doubts as to the security that was offered, the local authorities were authorised to grant them stamped tickets, upon which they could recover in case of difficulty. The prices of grain still continue high, rice costing in the country to the East of the Yellow River Tls. 45-46 per picul, and flour 150-160 *cash* per catty ; in the provincial capital the rates are 35-36 strings of *cash* and 100 *cash* and upwards, respectively. Luckily, the young crops are coming on well in the land that has already been planted, and a certain amount of confidence consequently prevails. In the southern districts, where agriculturists are fewer, there is little seed sown, and the farmers unanimously declare that buckwheat being a hardy plant and able to stand the cold, can still be sown at this late hour. Officers have accordingly been sent with all speed to procure the seed and distribute it along the valley of the Yellow River as far as Yü mên. Some time must still elapse before the gathering of the autumn harvest, and the work of relief is just now at its height. The memorialist and his colleagues will, as in duty bound, endeavour to carry out the measures in connection therewith to the best of their ability.

(2) Ngo-lo-ho-pu, Military Governor of Uliasut'ai, reports having handed over his seals of office to Ch'un Fu, his successor, who was appointed to the post last year, but was unable to proceed there at once in consequence of ill-health. The memorialist, whose ailment will not admit of rapid movements, proposes to return Peking by easy stages, and if he is enabled to recover from the chronic complaint with which he is afflicted, will prostrate himself in the dust before the palace gates, and supplicate the bestowal of further employment.

(3) Ch'un Fu reports the assumption of his duties as Military Governor of Uliasut'ai.

July 8th.—(1) Jung Lu, President of the Court of Censors, and other officers of the Metropolitan Government, report the steps they have taken in obedience to Imperial Decree issued on the 23rd June (not published in the *Gazette*) with regard to the financial panic in Peking. They have to remark with reference to the currency question, that the secret of success lies in brisk circulation, and that illicit coinage is prohibited by laws of great severity, but time has allowed abuses to spring up and the small *cash* began to predominate, so that directly they were rejected the price of *cash* began to fluctuate, the evil effects of which, as the price of grain has not yet fallen to any great extent, were severely felt by the people, a state of things that was aptly described in His Majesty's decree as most incongruous. At the commencement of the present month (June) there was a certain number of shops and dealers in the markets who took to rejecting small *cash*, with the result that on the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th inst. a run was made on the banks by holders of notes, who claimed large *cash* for them, and many of the banks being unable to meet the [sudden] demand were obliged to close. A clamour and excitement ensued that caused much confusion and alarm, whereupon the memorialists went to four of the banks in the inner, or Tartar, city, that had the reputation of being thoroughly sound and secure [to enquire how the difficulty could best be met]. As the result of their enquiries, officers were sent to the different banks to exhort them in most emphatic terms [to stand firm], and if they found they had not a sufficient quantity of *cash* in hand to meet the demand, their best plan would be to redeem their notes in silver. They followed this course, and the consequence is that for the past few days a gradual sense of security is making itself felt amongst them and popular excitement is gradually subsiding. It will be the duty of memorialists to continue to regard the progress of events with a watchful eye, and to take such measuree from time to time as the position of affairs may appear to them to demand. Soms illegal coiners have already been arrested and sent to the Board of Punishments for disposal. They will give orders to their subordinates not to relax their vigilance, and to arrest all such malefactors, that the root of this evil may be attacked and further mischief prevented by their extermination.

(2) Postscript memorial by Wên Koh, on the subject of repairs to the Pi-twan-Sze, a temple on the T'ai-shan mountain in Shantung, that was struck by lightning last October, and partially destroyed by fire. The matter having been reported to His Majesty, who was graciously pleased

to order further details to be furnished as soon as the extent of the damages could be ascertained, and the amount required to make them good, officers were deputed to make the necessary inspection. They now report that they were informed by the priest in charge that the building was struck by lightning on the night of the 9th of October, about the second watch. He and his companions fell affrighted to the ground, and when they recovered themselves they perceived a red light in the centre of the temple, which when they hurried forward to inspect it, proved to be caused by the ignition of the entrance gate and the pavilion covering the stone upon which the history of the temple was inscribed A high wind was blowing at the time, which fed the flames, and in a short space the eastern side of the temple, comprising the hall of images, bell and drum towers and the eastern tablet pavilion, were destroyed. There being altogether only three persons in the temple including watchmen, and the building being situated high up on a hill with few dwellings around it, no assistance could be obtained and little could be done to arrest the progress of the fire, so that in a few minutes the eastern portion of the temple was destroyed. The sacrificial utensils that were presented by the Emperor were preserved, but the Imperial pavilions on both sides of the gate were destroyed, and the tables they contained were much cracked and injured by the fire. A sum of Tls. 27,000 will be required to make the damages good, and as it would not be convenient to devote any of the regular income of the province to this object, the memorialist proposes to borrow the money from the salt department and secure its repayment by the distribu- of a small tax over the salt merchants and officials, for which method a precedent is afforded.—Rescript: Noted.

July 9th.—(Court Circular.) The Board of Revenue request that the two Superintendents of Live Stock and House Duty at Peking may be changed.

(1) A decree appointing Ngan Tê 安德 and Yung T'süan 榮全 to the above posts.

(2) Memorial by the Governor and Famine Commissioner of Shansi requesting that the period of issue of relief may be extended to the end of the 8th moon instead of the close of the 5th moon as was originally sanctioned, in reply to an application earlier made. In consequence of the scarcity of snow during the past winter and the absence of rain during the first three months of the year, it was impossible to sow the crops for the summer harvest, of which all hope is gone. Rain fell it is true in the 4th moon, and the autumn crops were got into the ground, but as these cannot be gathered until the close of the 8th moon, or middle of September, and the survivors of the famine are entirely dependent for subsistence upon the relief that is afforded them, were this suddenly to be stopped several months before the gathering of the harvest, they would have nothing to eat and, like the rest, would die like dogs in a ditch, which the memorialists well know would be utterly at variance with the benevolent intentions of the Court. In accordance, therefore, with requisitions received from numbers of district and department Magistrates forwarded through the Superintendent of the contribution office, the memorialists beg to request permission to prolong the period during which relief is issued to the end of 8th moon.—Rescript: Let it be as requested.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials reporting promotions and transfers and other matters connected with ordinary official routine.

July 10th.—(1) A decree referring to a series of charges brought by the Censor P'an Ting-sin against Liu Ch'ang-yeo, Governor-General of Kweichow and Yünnan, whom he accused of showing favour to Hunan braves, and sheltering them from the consequences of their misdoings, with other irregularities of a similar nature. The whole question having been referred to Ting Pao-chêng, who was called upon to furnish a report on the matter, that high officer has now memorialised to the effect that the report which called forth the strictures of the Censor was based on fact, and had been incorrect only in the statements retailed from hearsay, but that Hu Chung-ho, the commander-in-chief, has certainly been careless in the scrutiny of the numbers of irregulars borne on his books, and, having drawn too many rations, failed to return them into store; so that, although his conduct in this and other matters cannot be called fraudulent, he has most undoubtedly shown a keen eye to his own profit. Let Hu Chung-ho be deprived of his Yellow Riding Jacket and his title of "Brave," that his misdemeanour may be marked by the infliction of a light penalty. A Prefect and Sub-prefect are temporarily deprived of their buttons and placed under the supervision of the Governor-General and Governor, and a Salt Intendant, though no specific charges can be proved against him, is ordered to vacate his post and

present himself at Peking for audience, in consequence of his neglect to consider his reputation, and of the indifferent character he has hitherto borne. A charge against the son of the Governor-General of frequenting bad society and taking to himself a concubine from the daughters of the land, is dismissed, but the Governor-General is committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty in consequence of his having failed to maintain proper supervision over his subordinates or to keep them under due restraint and control.

(2) A decree appointing Chung Nien-tsu 鐘念祖 to the post of Salt Intendant in Yünnan, vacated by the officer referred to above.

(3) A decree directing the temporary dismissal of one Yang Lieu-kw'ei, a Major in the Brigade of the T'i-tai of Yünnan, who, having contracted to supply a certain amount of copper for which the money was advanced him, has, so far, failed to do so, although the limit of time allotted has been twice extended. He is now given two months to complete his contract, with a promise of condign punishment if he exceeds the term.

(4) Memorial by the Court of Censorate forwarding an appeal by one Chang Lung-kwang, a native of the Nan-king district in Fuhk'ien, who complains that his father was murdered by some gamblers, whose proceedings he had been instructed by the Magistrate to put a stop to. The case was fully established against them by the Magistrate, but they subsequently bribed him to falsify the evidence, and send an incorrect report to his superiors, setting them free at the same time, and allowing them to continue their evil courses. Repeated failures to obtain justice in the provincial courts had driven him to Peking.—Referred in the usual manner by decree earlier issued.

(5) Memorial by Ming Hsün, Superintendent of the Imperial manufactory at Nanking, with reference to a memorial by the Censor She T'ai that appeared some time ago in the *Gazette* requesting that the old system of manufacturing scrolls upon which patents are inscribed might be reverted to. In this memorial, which he perused with inexpressible agitation and alarm, the Superintendent noticed that the Censor declared that since the manufacture of these scrolls was temporarily transferred to the Hang-chow establishment, much superfluous expenditure had been indulged in, doubtless not without profit to many, for at Nanking [though the factory had been restored], no application had been made for the restoration of the work it was designed to execute. The memorialist immediately set to work to look up the records bearing on this subject, and to make enquiries amongst the artizans employed, for a verification of the Censor's statements. The workmen employed in the *Shên Po T'ang*, or Sacrificial Silk Factory, now state that there is a factory in Nanking for the manufacture of Sacrificial Silk scrolls upon which patents of rank are inscribed, Imperial equipage trappings, coloured silk for festoons, brocade (?), gauze, etc., and they appeal to the "Collected Institutes" *(Hwei Tien)* and the *Tsê Li* or Regulations of the Board, in verification of what they say. After the rebellion broke out, permission was applied for through the Board of Works, and granted, for the temporary removal of this industry to Hangchow, with the understanding that it should be restored to Nanking at the close of military operations. They further proceeded to remark that the manufacture of this particular description of silk, used, as it is, for sacrificial purposes, is an institution of great importance. In the factory originally established are two well known by the name of the "Sacrificial Silk Wells," over which a special guard is placed, and the water of which is to the present day used to bleach the silk thread that is required in the manufacture of these fabrics, which gives them extraordinary cleanness and lustre, and renders the ash, when the silk is burnt on sacrificial occasions, to be of a spotless white. There is a silk peculiar to the place which is exclusively used in the manufacture of the fabric of which sacrificial silk and patent scrolls are composed. It is light in substance and white in colour, and when bleached with the water of these wells and woven into silk is particularly inflammable, and appropriately used in acknowledging the protecting care of Heaven above. Hu-chow silk, being heavier in substance and of a muddy colour, [is not so well adapted for the purpose.] When the silk above referred to is woven for patent scrolls it has also to be bleached with water from these wells, the scrolls being issued to His Majesty's ministers and servants, who treat them with the utmost reverence. The colours stand fast for years, differing in this respect from Hu-chow silk, which is constantly liable to mildew and decay, and the raw material has the additional merit of being comparatively cheap, even though produced in small quantities. So necessary, however, is the water of these wells for its

preparation that the fact is quite proverbial. The workmen engaged in the preparation of sacrificial silk are obliged to wash their hands and change their clothes before commencing their work, which they execute with reverence and conscientious attention. The fabric completed, the law requires that it shall be passed over a fire before being sent to Peking, for the purpose of extracting any impurities that may remain, and illustrating at the same time the extent of the reverence with which sacrifices to Heaven should be performed if efficacy would be secured. Since this manufacture was transferred to Hangchow, and Huchow silk has been employed, a grant of more than double the former allowance has been obtained, but in spite of this the Board of Works has negatived an application on the part of the Nanking artizans for the restoration of the manufacture to them, though a return to the use of the original material would secure a reduction of at least half the present expenditure. In conclusion, they repeat their request for the restoration of the old system. The memorialist, while absolving the Hangchow authorities from the charge of extortion brought against them by the Censor, and explaining that the higher rate allowed them is necessitated by the cost of the Hu-chow raw material, strongly supports the application of the Nanking artizans.—Rescript: Let the Board of Works take note. (See *Gazette* of Feb. 17th.)

July 11th.—(Abstract of Memorials) Tsêng Kwoh-tsüan requests His Majesty to bestow an Imperial autograph memorial board upon the father and mother of Yang Yoh-pin, late Governor-General of Shênsi and Kansuh.—Granted by Rescript.

The same officer requests permission to devote a portion of the sums derived from the sale of offices to the interment of corpses lying by the roadside. Rescript: Noted.

(1) A Decree. The *raison d'être* of a coinage system is the benefit the people derive from its establishment, and the destruction of coins or their illicit manufacture are stringently prohibited by law. Spurious *cash* have lately been circulated in the capital to an extent that is driving [genuine *cash* out of the market] and forcing up prices, insomuch that the interests of the resident population are seriously affected thereby. It has come to Our hearing that a large number of lawless characters in the capital have recently taken to melting down Government *cash* and recasting them, making to themselves profit out of the process. Stringent measures have now therefore become necessary, and We hereby command the metropolitan executive, in reverent obedience to Our former decree, to instruct their subordinates to make secret search for such persons, to the end that they may be punished as the law requires. Let them also enjoin upon the Yamêns concerned to see to it that none of this spurious *cash* is allowed to be brought into the city, and to be unsparing in their punishment of any underlings who are found to be in collusion with the lawless characters above referredto.

(2) A decree authorising the issue of two months extra pay on the diminished scale of two-tenths to the bannermen drawing Government allowances and the unemployed Imperial clansmen in Peking, it having been represented that the monthly sums at present allotted to them are inadequate to afford them subsistence. The Board of Revenue is further instructed to issue money in a reduced ratio to those not at present in receipt of Government support.

(3) A decree directing Kwoh Lo-min and K'i Lu, Tartar Generals at Hangchow and Si-an (Shênsi) respectively, to come to Peking to do duty there. The posts vacated by them are to be severally filled by Kwang K'ê 廣科 and K'o Mêng Ngo 克蒙額. Shan Ts'ing 善慶 is to be promoted to the post of Tartar General at Ning Hia, and Fu Erh Sun, late Deputy Lieutenant-General at Cha P'u, who has recently gone to Peking to have audience, is to assume the duties of Deputy Lieutenant-General at Hangchow. Neither Kwang K'ê nor K'o Mêng Ngo will be required to present themselves at Peking before taking up their appointments.

(4) Si Chên 錫珍 is appointed Senior Vice-President of the Censorate.

(5) A Decree. Let Sun Kia-nai 孫家鼐 fill the post of Reader of the Han-lin.

(6) Memorial by Ch'ung How reporting that K'ai Chao, a second class secretary of a Board at Moukden, who had been denounced for extorting money through his younger brother's widow from the widow of the late Grand Secretary Wênsiang, has now restored the money and entered into recognizances to refrain from molesting the widow or her son in future. The memorialist therefore prays that he may be reinstated in the rank of which he was deprived.—Granted by Rescript. (See *Gazette* of 15th June.)

(6) Memorial by the same officer reporting the trial of an Assistant Secretary of a Board at Moukden, temporarily in retirement while mourning for his father, who

purchased land under an assumed name, and refused to pay the taxes upon it, cruelly maltreating the Magistrate's underlings who were sent to demand the money. He now proposes, the man's guilt having been clearly established, to inflict a hundred blows upon him. Having already been cashiered, the question of his dismissal from the public service need not of course be considered. Referred to the Board of Punishments. (See *Gazette* of 7th March.

July 12th.—(Court Circular) The Court of Sacrificial Worship reminds His Majesty that on the 10th August, the birthday of the Senior Empress, certain sacrificial rites have to be performed in the inner chamber of the T'ai Miao, or Hall of Imperial Ancestry, and has received the Imperial command, "Let She Yi perform the necessary observances."

(1) Memorial by Ho Show-tz'e and Ngên Ch'êng reporting at great length the result of a joint investigation they were directed to make into a series of charges brought against King Hwei, a Sub-director of the Imperial Banqueting Court, by the Censor Têng Ts'ing-lin. The charges were four in number, namely, unauthorised usurpation of authority, diversion of money drawn for payment of an oil purveyor's bills towards the compilation and revision of the Rules of the Court, failure to report the loss of copper utensils under his charge, and levying a discount on all tradesmen's bills paid by him. Each of these charges was separately dealt with, and, the accused having been examined, his statements were verified by independent witnesses. They find that though guiltless in principle of the acts with which he is charged, the Censor had fair grounds for suspecting the Sub-director of dishonesty. In the matter of levying discount from tradesmen, for instance, the Sub-director admitted that this was done, but explained that as the Board had ignored repeated applications from him for money to meet the working expenses of his office, he was obliged to get it from somewhere, and was only adopting a precedent established by his predecessors in office. Be this as it may, the Sub-director was undoubtedly to blame in not keeping an account of the sums expended by him, of which there is no record whatever, and they recommend that he be relieved of his present duties. (Granted by decree published in *Gazette* of 28th June.)

(2) Postscript memorial by Mu T'u Shan reporting that when a cavalry force had been detached for service at Urga, and it became necessary to provide them with horses, Ch'un Fu, the late Lieutenant-General, had directed the men in charge of the pasturage grounds to select 600 horses for their use, and keep them separate from the rest of the herd until the grass had grown sufficiently to enable them to be forwarded to Urga, it being feared that many of them would die of exhaustion if they were ridden such a long distance before they could obtain pasturage *en route*. The force having now been reduced by half its number, orders have been sent to stop half the horses, which have already started. Those that are not wanted are to be turned out to grass at the place at which the order reaches them, until the Imperial sanction to this change has been received, when they can be sent back to rejoin the herd.

July 13th.—(1) A decree commenting on a report which has been received from Jui Lien, Tartar General in Shansi, who had been directed to investigate a case of disputed succession in the Ulan Ch'ap League, one of the six into which the Inner Mongols are divided. As the result of this investigation, the Captain-General, Ko-ch'u-k'o by name, is deprived of office and committed to the Mongolian Superintendency for the determination of a severe penalty, he having been found guilty of wilfully delaying the settlement of the dispute with a view to securing the title for a *Hieh-li-daidji*, or Administrator, whose name was changed for the purpose of deceiving the higher powers; and of failing to exercise proper restraint over his son, with the result that he became involved in a lawsuit, and was guilty of the inexcusable conduct of taking forcible possession of an official seal. For this misdemeanour the son is sentenced to lose his title of *daidji*, or noble, of the first class, and also to be handed to the superintendency for the determination of a severe penalty. Sê Ling, the Administrator who who was to be fraudulently pushed into the succession, is also to lose his title and receive a penalty, he having shown a weak and vacillating spirit inexcusable in a person of his station. Certain other *daidji* who gave their evidence in a plain and straightforward manner, are to have their orders of nobility, which had been temporarily taken away preparatory to their examination, once more restored to them.

(2) A decree re-appointing Wan Shun 萬順 to a further term of service as Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Soochow.

(3) Wu Chên 吳鎮 is appointed Supervising Censor of the Board of Punishments.

(4) A decree sanctioning an application from the Governor of Shansi for the issue of a number of memorial boards for six temples in the provincial capital and one in T'ai-yuan Fu, in grateful appreciation of the manifestations vouchsafed by their presiding deities in answer to prayers for rain.

(5) The acting Governor of Yünnan reports the sentences passed and carried out in a case of wholesale murder. One Fu Chung-hin, who resided in the Mi-lo district, considered that he had a grievance against Hieh Yin-yü, a licentiate by purchase, and his three sons, who had been entrusted during the Mahommedan rising in the reign of T'ung-chih with the organisation of trainbands and the levy of contributions for that purpose. The father and sons took advantage of this power to levy excessive exactions and after the disbandment of the force, when order had been restored, destroyed their books, which they falsely declared they had lost, and then claimed alleged arrears of contributions from different persons, Fu Chung-hin being one of the victims of their extortion. From him, as he refused to pay, they took a piece of land and farmed it themselves, treating his demand for restitution of the property with contempt and violence. Li Chung-hin, with rage and hatred in his heart, swore that he would kill them, and, to this end, prepared a feast to which he invited those who like himself had been the victims of his enemies' greed and avarice. He imparted his plans to them, and some agreed to aid him; others, more timid, who declined to have anything to do with the murder, were pledged to silence. Some days afterwards, having heard that Hieh Yin-yü had gone into the town, and that his three sons had set out to meet him on his return, Fu Chung-hin considered that his opportunity had come, and went with six of his friends to a lonely bridge just outside the village, over which he knew the old man and his sons must pass. They concealed themselves in a wood close by, and patiently awaited his approach. Just as it was getting dusk the old man and his sons were seen approaching, two of the latter being the first to step upon the bridge. At this juncture two of the would-be assassins turned coward and their courage failed, but the others rushed forward and assaulted the sons with sticks and knives, stabbing them repeatedly till they died, when the bodies were thrown into the river. While this was going on, the old man and his remaining son had run away, but they were soon overtaken and cut down, by whom it is impossible to say so numerous were the blows and stabs that were inflicted. When they saw that their victims were dead, the murderers dragged their bodies to the bridge and threw them also in the river, after which they cast away their weapons and fled in different directions. Fu Chung-hin, however, seeing it was impossible to evade the grasp of the law, soon gave himself up, and admitted that he was the chief offender. His companions were shortly arrested, and a trial held at which the above facts were elicited. The law lays down that whosoever shall be guilty of slaying three persons of one family, provided that these have not committed crimes punishable by death, shall be executed by a slow and painful process. Fu Chung-hin, in accordance with this law, had been led forth bound to a public place and slowly sliced to death. To his companions in guilt, sentences have been respectively awarded commensurate with the measure of their crime.

July 14th.—(1) A decree appointing She Luh 世祿 to the post of Deputy Lieutenant-General at Chap'oo.

(1) Joint memorial by Wu Yuan-ping, acting as Governor-General of the Two Kiang, Wên Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transport, and Lo Fang-k'i, acting as Governor of Kiangsu, renewing the recommendation of an expectant Taotai, Pan Ki-yün by name, to the post of Intendant of the Hwai-ngan circuit recently made by the Governor-General. The Board had objected to the appointment on the ground that the officer in question was ignorant of everything connected with river works, and that in this particular post a knowledge of river engineering on the part of the incumbent was eminently desirable. The memorialists now retort that, so far from being ignorant of these matters, as the Board imagine, Pan Ki-yün has considerable experience in the matter of the construction of river embankments and works of a like nature, and they proceed to enumerate the various river engineering works on which he has been employed, concluding with a repetition of the recommendation of the Governor General.

(3) Memorial by Yên Hü, Military Lieut-Governor of Yeh-ho and Imperial Clansman, complaining of the utter want of attention paid to cases of murder or homicide by the Administrators of the T'umed tribe (one of the two tribes into which the Chosot'u

League of the "Inner Mongols" is divided), and of the unwarrantable delays that invariably attend the hearing of such cases. He explains that in Mongolia, when a case of murder or homicide occurs, and has been reported to the authorities, the law requires that the Adjutant in charge of the particular Banner should go and inspect the body, after which it has been customary, by regulation of long standing, for the banner concerned to provide conveyances to carry the witnesses to the Yamên of the Adjutant in question. A spirit of laxity and indifference in these matters has of late years been gaining ground, the memorialist regrets to say, and the consequence is that the hearing of charges of murder and the like are frequently put off from year to year in the most improper and unconstitutional manner. He proceeds to enumerate a list of cases of murder and homicide, some of them dating back as far as the year 1867, which the Administrators of the T'umed tribe have persistently neglected to investigate, and explains that as the *Dzassak*, or chieftain of the tribe, has resided in Peking for a number of years, they cannot possibly evade the responsibility of their shortcomings by placing it on their chieftain's shoulders. He concludes with a recommendation that the Administrator Pa-sa-êrh-to-êrh-ki, be deprived of his office and titles, and that Cha-na-pu-li-cha-lang-a, his colleague, whose culpability is slightly modified by the fact that he does not hold a seal of office, may be committed to the proper Yamên for the adjudication of a severe penalty. In the event of His Majesty's consent, it will be necessary to select another officer to take charge of the *Dzassak's* seals. He hopes, therefore, that instructions to this effect may be given to the Mongolian Superintendency.—Granted by Rescript.

(4) Postscript memorial by Ming Ngan, Military Governor of Kirin, reporting that he has established beyond all manner of doubt that Liu Hung-ngên, a criminal working out a sentence of banishment, had surreptitiously made his way to his home and returned to his place of exile when he heard that orders were out for his re-arrest. The man denied the charge in the most persistent and obstinate manner, but officers have been sent to his native place and obtained the testimony of a number of individuals who themselves saw him walking about the streets of the town, and, independently of each other, described his dress and appearance with such circumstantial unanimity as to leave no doubt whatever about the fact of his visit. Their statements were further confirmed by the brother-in-law of the accused and a number of his neighbours, who after much persuasion were induced to sign a paper to this effect, giving as the reason for their reluctance in the first instance to do so, their fear lest he should visit their interference upon them when his release look place. Liu Hung-ngên is a notorious bully and scoundrel, and before his incarceration was the owner of upwards of eighty gambling hells. His vicious companions and lawless propensities made him the terror of the neighbourhood, as may be judged from the fact that no one would sign the paper above referred to until they were promised protection from the revenge of himself or his former associates. The man having now aggravated his offences by this audacious return to his native place, there can be little doubt that if he be allowed to purchase his freedom at the expiration of his sentence, trouble will come of it, and someone will suffer. The memorialist would accordingly suggest that the Board of Punishments be instructed to inflict a heavy penalty upon him, that an element of disturbance may be extirpated and safety secured in the locality that has the misfortune to own him. (See *Gazette* of 29th June.)

July 15th.—(1) A Decree. Ho King and his colleague report that in the month of May last the town of T'aiwan-fu was suddenly visited by a disastrous hurricane, and that the Yamên in which the Governor resides when he is there, the crenulated battlements of the northern wall, and a number of dwelling houses inside and outside the city, had been blown down or partially destroyed, causing loss of life amongst the soldiery and residents. We hereby command Ho King and Pao Hêng, with Hia Hien-lun, Taotai of T'aiwan, to ascertain the exact number of houses destroyed and of lives lost, as well as the damage to standing crops and farm property. Let them also ascertain whether other places beyond this area have been affected by the storm, and the extent of damage done to shipping, whether vessels of war or trading and fishing craft. They will take such measures for the solace and relief of the sufferers as will effectually prevent their dispersion.

(2) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, reports that he has resumed the duties of his office at the expiration of his term of leave. Though slightly better now that the summer has come on, he is in constant dread of catching cold, and dresses in heavy wadded garments. He took over his seals and insignia of office on the 17th June.

(3) Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, reports similarly that he has returned to his regular duties.

(4) Memorial by Yên Hü, Military Lieutenant-Governor of Jeh-ho, requesting sanction for the modification of the rules under which land tax is levied in the Hunting Reserves *(Wei Ch'ang)*. The land in the *Wei ch'ang* was originally divided into three categories; *Shang*, or first class land; *Chung*, or medium; and *Hia*, or poor, which were assessed at Tls. 5, Tls. 4, and Tls. 3 per *k'ing* respectively. In addition to this tax, a "waste allowance" of five mace per *k'ing* was levied on all descriptions of land indiscriminately, and went towards paying the expenses of the *Yü-k'o-kü* or "tax improvement office," in which the levy of these taxes was vested. This office having now been withdrawn and a sub-prefect in receipt of a regular salary established in its place, this waste allowance should naturally revert to the exchequer, but it appears to memorialist that a uniform levy of five *mace* per *k'ing* on all classes of land indiscriminately is hardly just, especially in the *Wei ch'ang*, where land is for the most part of the second and third denomination. He proposes, therefore, in future, with His Majesty's permission, to levy a waste allowance of ten per cent. on the assessed rating of each particular *k'ing*, in accordance with the plan pursued in Ch'êng-têh Fu and other sections of Jeh-ho. —Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

(5) Postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang referring to instructions received by him to detain 160,000 piculs of tribute rice from Kiangsu, etc. for distribution in the famine districts. Orders were at once given for the rice to be weighed out and handed over to the officers appointed to receive it, the places of distribution being at the same time determined, and amounts allotted to each in accordance with the respective gravity of their distress. The whole was weighed out and delivered over in twenty days, and 155,000 piculs issued for distribution, the remainder being left in store until boats could be obtained to carry it away. The work of shipment went on steadily day by day, the loading of the boats being superintended and accelerated by the authorities, who sent them forward promptly to the afflicted localities. As regards Honan in particular, of the 230,000 piculs raised from different sources, the officials sent to take delivery of it have sent away the greater half.

(6) Postscript memorial by Li Hung-chang referring to an earlier memorial (published in the *Gazette* of 8th April) on the subject of judicial matters, in which was embodied a return of cases for the preceding three years. He now reports that, Chihli being a province of wide area and its inhabitants of a particularly turbulent disposition, it follows that a large amount of crime has to be dealt with and litigation is very frequent. When, from the gravity of a case or the doubtful nature of the evidence, it has to be heard at the provincial capital, the presence of a large number of witnesses and,—in the case of murder—the relatives of the deceased, is compulsory. It has hitherto been the practice to accept bail for the appearance, when wanted, of any of these persons who were able to procure it, while those who could not were handed over to the custody of the magistrate. As, however, some time must always elapse before these cases can come on, and longer before they can be settled, it seems a great hardship that the witnesses, most of whom are perfectly innocent of any offence, should remain in custody for so long a period, and be subjected to privations which, in the case of the poorer people who have not the means of providing themselves with food and clothing, frequently result in death. Under these circumstances the consideration of a scheme for the amelioration of their condition, similar to that in force in the other provinces, appeared to be necessary, and the two commissioners submitted to memorialist a proposal for the establishment in the provincial capital of a *How-shen-kung-so*, or house of detention for witnesses, under Government auspices, to which all witnesses in pending cases brought to the capital from outlying districts were to be committed after the Prefect of Pao-ting had satisfied himself by personal interrogation that they themselves had committed no crime. Under certain circumstances it was also suggested that defendants might be admitted to the establishment as well. It was proposed to place a resident officer in charge of the establishment, and to issue daily rations to each occupant, providing medical attendance and medicines in case of illness, a list being kept of the number of occupants with the days that each entered and left. The memorialist having sanctioned the scheme feels it his duty to report the same for His Majesty's information.

July 16th.—(1) A decree referring to a memorial by the Censor K'ung Hien-ki denouncing the gross corruption that at present prevails in the administration in Honan. "The waste and fraud that goes on

in connection with river works is disgraceful; taxes seem to be allowed to be appropriated without remonstrance; failure of harvest is reported in places where no failure has occurred, and the taxes that are remitted or delayed go to enrich the official who gathered them. In cases of remission of arrears of land tax by act of Imperial grace, the tax registers are altered and official defalcations are made out to be debts from the people; while the higher officers pass by these frauds, fearing that, if exposed, they would have to bear their share of the refund. Taxes are levied on land returned as unoccupied and quietly appropriated by the authorities, who likewise inflict illegal imposts in their insatiable avarice and greed. Justice is sold by private contract, and human life is treated like so much grass, right being made wrong and wrong right [at the nod of the highest bidder.]" These are some of the charges brought by the Censor, and if they be correct, what can be said of such a state of things? T'uh Tsung-ying has but newly arrived at his post; let him then break through the trammels of friendship and of interest, and devote himself with all sincerity to the reform of these disgraceful "customs", utterly destroying and rooting them out. Let him endeavour to reduce the "*pro rata* contributions" in aid of deficient taxes, and uncompromisingly put a stop to taxation over and above the authorised amount. Excessive employment of gratuitous labour must not be permitted, and false reports of disastrous harvests must be put a stop to. Accounts of out-going officials must be settled within a given time, the amount of land under taxation must be carefully ascertained, and the sale of justice uncompromisingly put down. He must continually watch the demeanour of his subordinates, and denounce any whom he finds to be persistently corrupt or incapable.

(2) A decree appointing Tê Hing 德馨 to the post of Financial Commissioner of Kiangsu.

(3) A Decree. The Financial Commissioner of Kweichow, when it recently became his duty to present a memorial of birthday congratulations, erroneously offered them to the Senior Empress Dowager. This is a gross piece of carelessness, and We command that Wu Tê be handed over to the Board for the determination of a penalty. (Note.—The birthday of the Emperor, which fell this year on the 27th July, is followed very shortly by that of the Senior Empress Dowager (10th August), and it appears probable from the foregoing decree that Wu Tê has mistaken the one for the other. The Financial and Judicial Commissioners, it is perhaps unnecessary to explain, in addition to memorials returning thanks for appointment and announcing the assumption or vacation of office, are permitted to address the Throne directly five time annually, viz., on the first day of the year, the birthdays of the Empresses and the Emperor, and at the *Tung-che* or winter solstice.)

July 17th.—(1) A decree appointing Kwei Shan 貴珊 to the post of Taotai of the K'ai Kwei Ch'ên Hü circuit in Honan.

(2) Memorial by Ming An, Military Governor of Kirin, and Yü Liang his colleague, forwarding a return of the mounted banditti captured since the date of their last report, and the names of the officers and men who effected their capture. These banditti, numbering 151 in all, were summarily executed as captured, after a confession of guilt had been obtained from them. Their depositions are not sent to the Board of Punishments, as this is not required by the regulations, but a list of the officers whose energy is deserving of commendation is forwarded in a separate memorial.

No other documents of importance.

July 18th.—(1) A decree ordering a series of intercessory services for rain on the 20th inst., in which His Majesty will take a part. During the 4th and 5th moons abundance of rain fell in the capital and its neighbourhood, and even during the past month numerous showers have fallen, but nevertheless there is an insufficiency, and as at this stage of their growth the crops are greatly in need of moisture, His Majesty accedes to the suggestion that prayers should be offered up. Services are to be conducted at our other temples by princes and others whose names are given.

(2) A Decree. Shen Pao-chêng reports a laudable exercise of filial piety on the part of a Taotai now deceased, and begs Us of Our goodness to allow his official biography to be prepared by the State Historiographer's Office. Wu Kün-kwang, late Taotai of the Su Sung T'ai circuit (Shanghai), applied for permission to vacate his post that he might go and search for his father's remains, and We granted him a year's leave of absence, relieving him from the necessity of vacating his post. The Governor-General now reports that the deceased officer, having relinquished his official duties and gone on a distant journey, died from the effects of the fatigue endured in bearing back his father's remains from so great a distance. His filial piety is indeed commendable, and

We sanction the compilation of his official biography as requested by the Governor-General.

(3) A decree referring to an accusation brought by the Censor Ts'ing Hi-jung against Liu Wên-k'i, an expectant prefect in Kiangsu, whom he charged with having formerly been a gateman in the Yamên of the Kia-shan Magistrate in Chêkiang. He was accordingly cashiered, and the Governor-General of the Two Kiang was directed to investigate the charge. He now reports that Liu Wên-k'i, during his residence at Kia-shan, had assisted in his father's shop, from whence he had gone to Shanghai and enlisted, obtaining his promotion through the recommendation of his superiors, and had never performed the duties of a gateman. As Liu Wên-k'i is found to be of respectable origin, and not to have fraudulently purchased his official rank after serving in the menial position of an official underling, his rank and status are hereby restored to him. Shêng Pao-chêng will, however, report on his capabilities for the office of prefect.

(4) A decree appointing Kung Süan 恭鎧 to the post of Taotai of the Hwei, Ning, Chè, T'ai, Kwang circuit in Anhwei.

(5) Memorial from the Court of Censors reporting that an appeal has been presented at their office by Li K'o-sin, a bannerman of the Kharach'in Mongol tribe, who stated as follows :—"My grandfather Ming Yuan was a follower of the Prince of Kwoh, and on the marriage of the prince's daughter to one of the members of the Kharach'in tribe, went with her to her new home. On the death of her husband, his mistress, having no children, adopted a *Tabunang* or noble called Sung-ki-cha-pa as her late husband's heir. My grandfather's late master bestowed upon him and his heirs a piece of land, but Sung-ki-cha-pa, being a man of extravagant habits, who threw his money about as if it were so much dirt, soon ran through his property, and then summoned my father and his brother into his service. Having no money of his own, he made continual demands upon them for pecuniary help, enforcing his demands with great brutality if they were not directly complied with. The result was that our little property gradually diminished until the whole of it was gone, but Sung-ki-cha-pa, still insatiable, insisted on my uncle cutting down the trees in his adopted father's burial ground. This my uncle refused to do, whereupon his new master took him to the Prefect's yamên and had him tied up and beaten until he had paid over 5,000 strings of *cash*. He tried to extort some more money from my uncle this year, and when he refused to pay sent him bound to the Prefect's yamên, where he was cruelly beaten. I went to the yamên to beg for his release, and my master sent word to me to say that my uncle had been beaten to death, and the news so upset my father that he died of grief. I knelt to my master and implored him to give me the body of my uncle, but he refused, so that in my distress I appealed to the Deputy Lieutenant-General. My master then himself seized me and brought me back, ordering a strict watch to be kept over me, but I managed to escape and begged my way to Peking, where I have come to make my complaint."—Referred in the usual manner.

July 19th.—(1) A decree referring to the case of Liu Hung-ngên, a criminal under sentence of banishment, who had returned to his home without permission to do so (see *Gazettes* of 29th June and 14th July.) The reports on the subject sent by Ch'un Fu and Ming Ngan (Military Governors of Kirin and Uliasut'ai respectively) were so at variance one with the other, that Liu Hung-ngên was sent to the Board of Punishments, who were ordered to examine him and discover the truth of the matter. They have now ascertained on the man's own confession that he did escape from his place of banishment and revisit his home, returning when he heard that orders were out for his arrest. They accordingly propose that as a punishment for breaking bounds, he shall now be sent to the New Dominion to work out his sentence, this being the heaviest penalty they are able to inflict. Their proposal is sanctioned, and the Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar is directed to ascertain whether the officials on duty at the post station at which the prisoner served were bribed to connive at his escape. Penalties are at the same time to be inflicted upon Ts'ing Ch'un, late Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar, for neglecting to maintain proper supervision, and on Ch'un Fuh, in whose jurisdiction the man's home lay, for declaring he had not gone there without taking the trouble to satisfy himself properly on the subject.

(2) Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Hu-kwang provinces, reports the rehearing of an appeal case that was sent down to him some time ago by the office of Gendarmerie. Wu Che-tao, Chang Ch'êng-tê, and Chang Hio-ts'ing are all natives of the Chu-ki district and close neighbours. Wu Yu-yuan, deceased, was the father of Wu Che-tao. On the evening of the 12th

April, 1873, Wu Che-tao went to the house of Chang Ch'êng-tê to have a chat. Shortly after his arrival some neighbours came in too, and it struck Chang Ch'êng-tê that they might have a little gamble at pitch and toss, and the others accepting his invitation, he threw a *cash* down on the table and covered it with a bowl as it was spinning. Chopsticks were used for counters, and bets were made on the fall of the *cash*. They gambled all the night, and when they came to settle accounts, it was found that Wu Che-tao had lost 268 strings of *cash*, of which Chang Ch'êng-tê had won 52, and Tsai Liang-li and other neighbours who had dropped in, the rest. Wu Che-tao having no ready money, asked Chang Ch'êng-tê to induce the others to allow him time to pay. Chang consented, but after a while took to going to his house to dun him for the money. Wu Yu-yuan when he discovered Chang's business with his son, objected, and an altercation ensued which was settled by the neighbours, who advised the old man to give Chang 48 strings of *cash* and take his receipt for the whole amount. Chang went and told his fellow creditors of the offer that was made, but they refused to accept it and wanted the whole of their winnings. Accordingly, after some lapse of time, Chang went again to the house to demand payment, whereupon Wu Che-tao accused him of extortion, as he had already accepted the offer that had been earlier made him. Chang then took him by the front of his coat and dragged him along the road, saying he would have it out if it cost him his life. As he was dragging Wu along, some people saw them, and persuaded him to let him go, whereupon Wu went home and told his father, who ordered him to lodge a complaint at the magistracy. The Magistrate, having heard the case, reprimanded Chang and confiscated his winnings, taking from him a bond accepting the decision, and so the case was closed. Chang, however, was not satisfied, and went to tell Wu that he must and would have the money. Wu hid when he saw him coming, and Chang, out of revenge, destroyed a number of varnish trees on the old man's land worth about 5,000 *cash*. The Magistrate was again appealed to, but as some delay ensued in summoning the parties for trial, the old mān imagined that the Magistrate had been bribed and sent his son to the Prefect. During his absence the Magistrate's runners came to the house to summon the son to attend the investigation, and the old man declared his willingness to go in the stead of his son. He accordingly started off with the runners, and as the way was long and he well-stricken in years, they stopped half-way and spent the night at the house of a friend. The next morning it was very foggy, and his conductors wished to wait until the mist had cleared, but the old man was impatient to get on and started alone. The road was hilly and the stones wet and slippery with the mist, and before he had gone far he lost his footing and fell nearly to the ground, striking his head against a stone with such violence that he died where he lay. His conductors found him when they came up later on, and reported the fact in the usual manner, but the son, when he heard of his father's death, would not accept this story, and suspected foul play. Hence his repeated efforts to obtain a fresh inquest resulting finally in an appeal to Peking. The son is sentenced to eighty blows for having brought false charges against a number of people, and the men whose gambling propensities were the original cause of the mishap are adjudicated a slight penalty, of which however they obtain remission under the Act of Grace of 1875.

(3) The Governor of Kwangsi reports that the Annamese tribute mission crossed the frontier at Chên-nan-kwan on the 7th April, and passed into their own country.

(4) Postscript memorial by Tseng Kwoh-ts'üan requesting permission to keep open the Government grain and money shops which have been established in Shansi, with a view to enable those in distress to purchase grain at reduced rates and to keep down exchange, until the 9th moon, as their abrupt withdrawal would be the cause of much suffering.—Rescript: Noted.

(6) Postscript memorial by the same officer reporting that the various local authorities have been authorised to purchase land for the burial of the numerous unclaimed corpses that are lying about, which if allowed to remain exposed would breed pestilence and disease. Four hundred *cash* are allowed on each adult corpse to provide for the purchase of matting and the expense of burial, male and female bodies being buried in separate pits.

July 20th.—(Court Circular.) The Board of Ceremonies submits a note of the ceremonies to be observed on the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty.

(1) A Decree. Wên Koh applies for the services of certain officers on the ground that the conduct of matters of foreign character (洋務) require men of special qualifications. We hereby sanction the

transfer of P'êng Yü-fên and Yang Shu, expectant Taotais in Szechw'an, and Ma Wei-sü, expectant Prefect in Hunan, to Shantung, to be at the disposal of the Governor for employment in any special capacity. Kao T'ung-shan, prefect, awaiting selection in the Feng-t'ien jurisdiction, whose services have also been applied for, will proceed to the field originally allotted to him.

(2) Joint memorial by Ch'ung How, Military Governor of Sheng-king, and his colleagues K'i Yuan and Ngên Fu, on the subject of a suggestion by the Censor Li Hung-mo that a number of Imperial clansmen should be removed from Peking to occupy tracts of land in the region lately brought under control on the Corean frontier. A report on the subject having been called for, the memorialists beg now to state that they thoroughly approve of the Censor's plan, which undoubtedly ought to be carried out were there funds available for that purpose; but as a matter of fact there are not, the province of Fêng-t'ien being far from self-supporting, and dependent on other provinces for aid in the payment of salaries and maintenance of troops, while it is only by the exercise of the strictest economy that the expenses of the officials placed over the districts newly brought under control can be covered by the taxes raised within their jurisdictions, so that it would be quite impossible to burden them with extra expenditure. After careful review of the situation, memorialists are accordingly compelled to admit that they see no means, for the present at least, of removing any Imperial clansmen from Peking to Feng-t'ien. The members of those families, however, who are already resident in the province amount, with original residents and subsequent arrivals, to nearly 1,400, and are annually increasing their numbers, so that it now becomes necessary to consider in what manner facilities and privileges can be afforded them or a scale commensurate with their numbers, now far in excess of those originally provided for. Schools have already been established for the education of the children, but it is now proposed to add a third, in which the tuition shall be absolutely gratuitous, so that education may be placed within the reach of all. If, however, the path of learning be opened to them and no better prospect of advancement along the road of official promotion be held out to them than at present exist, those who avail themselves of these educational facilities will find their labour wasted and their learning thrown away. Under the old regulations, although Imperial clansmen can be selected after examination to fill the posts of *Kwan-chang* or headmen [of their respective divisions], and are at liberty to go to Peking to compete for appointments in the Imperial Guards or for official writerships, as, on an average, only one vacancy for the post of *Kwan-chang* occurs in twenty or thirty years, and the expense of a journey to Peking practically debars almost all from availing of the liberty to compete there for appointments, it follows that they obtain little benefit from these privileges. As, the original number of Imperial clansmen in Feng-t'ien was comparatively small, when the five Boards were organised in that province, none of the higher appointments were assigned to members of the clan, the only appointments specially allotted to *Tsung-shih* being two secretaryships to the *Tsung-shih-ying* or Corps of Imperial Clansmen, so that, although their numbers have now so greatly increased, their sphere of ambition is still limited to these two solitary appointments, and they have no inducement to exert themselves or to try to make the most of their talents. The memorialists would accordingly suggest that out of the one hundred and thirty odd official writerships assigned to the five Boards and the Governor's Yamên, and the thirteen senior secretaryships, twenty-four second secretaryships, and twenty-three assistant second secretaryships, allotted to the Boards, six appointments of the first category, one of the second, and two of the third and fourth respectively, shall be specially assigned to Imperial clansmen. Should His Majesty approve of their suggestion, the memorialists beg that the Imperial Clan Court and the Board of Civil Office may be instructed to consider the conditions and regulations under which appointments to these posts shall be made. (See *Gazettes* of November 23rd, 1877, and July 3rd, 1878.)

July 21st.—(1) A decree consenting to an application from T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shênsi, that Liang Yü-she, an expectant Sub-prefect in Hupeh, who had been sent to his native place on official business, shall be cashiered and placed on his trial for having unwarrantably put to death four innocent persons under the impression that they were banditti. The Sub-prefect freely acknowledges that he did kill these men with the assistance of a trainband captain, but declares that he did so because they ran shouting along the street with arms in their hands. On the other hand, evidence obtained from various

witnesses goes to prove that the men in question had no weapons in their hands and did not go shouting down the street of the town. In conclusion the decree calls the attention of provincial high authorities to the fact that trouble constantly arises from the practice of sending officers on official business to their native place, and they are hereby directed to recall any officers who may have been sent on special duty to their place of their homes, and to send others in their stead. They are moreover to make it an invariable rule in future to be careful, in the event of its becoming necessary to send an officer on special service into another province, that the officer selected be not a native of the particular province to which the mission is despatched.

(2) Memorial by Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, detailing certain steps he proposes to take for the reorganisation of the province after the terrible scourge with which it has been visited. He commences with the observation that for twelve months past he has been expecting the punishment he deserves for his maladministration in Shansi, where he arrived in the month of May last to find a scene of desolation and misery surrounding him on every side; an exchequer into which not a fraction of taxes was coming, while the expenditure exceeded that of former years; and so utter a dearth of resources that it was impossible to tell from one day to another from whence relief would come. In this crisis Their Majesties the Empresses and Emperor, with a charity and benevolence that was quite divine, came forward with that prompt assistance they are ever ready to grant when appealed to for aid by whosoever it may be. As far as memorialist himself was concerned, he found that the forethought of Their Majesties had suggested plans and courses of action that had never occurred to him, and his gratitude is profound for the benevolent measures they have taken to restore the sufferers to their original condition of prosperity, in the execution of which they have displayed a depth of lovingkindness for which history can find no parallel. The thought, however, has suggested itself to memorialist, as he sat in solitude and silence pondering anxiously in fear and trembling over the condition of affairs, and thinking how they might be remedied, that a time must come when the resources of the Imperial exchequer will be at an end, and the condition of the people may reach a climax of misery and distress with which the Government, benevolent though its intentions be, will find itself utterly unable to contend. He feels it, therefore, his duty respectfully to lay before His Majesty a few ideas that have occurred to him in connection with the more urgent measures of reform which he considers it necessary to adopt.

These are three in number, and the first he will call the apportionment of uncultivated land. The result of this great visitation has been the dispersion of the hardier labourers and the death of the sickly and the aged, whose bodies fill the ditches on every side. In places where the suffering has been greatest, not more than two or three families in every ten are left, while even where it has been less severe, the residue is not more than fifty or sixty per cent., so that there is not a district that does not contain quantities of waste or uncultivated land. If becomes then, in the interests of taxation alone, necessary to encourage people to cultivate these deserted holdings, but as the neighbouring provinces of Chihli, Honan and Shansi are likewise labouring under a similar misfortune, and have their share of desolation caused by death and dispersion to contend with, it becomes by no means an easy matter to promote immigration. The plan that memorialist now proposes to adopt is to instruct the local authorities first to seek out owners of land, and issue seed corn to them in the proportions that they may consider requisite, lending them at the same time oxen for ploughing purposes. Those who do not require relief will, of course, not be assisted. This done, the same authorities will, with the assistance of the resident gentry, carefully survey the land in their respective jurisdictions and enter the result in a separate register, proclamations being at the same time issued in the neighbouring districts inviting the owners of unoccupied holdings to return and farm their land. If the owners shall be found to be dead and the family to be extinct or to have gone elsewhere to settle, their land shall be allowed to remain untouched until the autumn of the present year, when permission shall be granted to a member of the nearest branch of the proprietor's family to undertake its cultivatoin; failing these, to a distant clansman. In the case of candidates of an equal propinquity of relationship coming forward, the preference shall be given to the elder claimant. Where no kinsfolk present themselves, members of the same tithing or village shall be allowed to take charge of the land; and failing these again, persons from other villages, districts, or prefectures,

preference being given in the order in which they are enumerated. Application shall be made to the local authority through the head of the village or ward in which the land is situated, and the applicant shall be supplied with a stamped certificate permitting him to cultivate the land. In the event of the owner returning within one year, the temporary occupant shall enjoy the proceeds of the harvest after deduction of the land tax, and the owner shall not enter into possession until the following year. But if no owner presents himself before the space of five years, the land shall become the property of the temporary occupant. The second proposition that memorialist has to make is in connection with the land and poll tax. In the time of the Ming dynasty a register existed known by the name of the *Yü Lin Ts'ê*, or "fish scale book," in which the amounts of land and poll tax leviable in each district were arranged after the manner of the warp and woof of a piece of cloth, the land tax, or permanent and unvarying source of revenue, constituting the *king* or warp, and the poll tax, a fluctuating and uncertain impost, taking the place of the *wei* or web. In the reign of the Emperor K'ang Hi, orders were given for a census to be taken throughout the Empire, and in the 50th year of the same reign the rateable population of each place was determined once and for all. But in the reign of the Emperor Yung Chêng, his successor, it was determined that the land and poll tax should be amalgamated, and for 150 years past persons who are not actual holders of land have been absolutely free from taxation of the kind. In Shansi, however, there have been some exceptions to the rule, and although on the representation of certain high officers in the reign of K'ien Lung, an attempt was made to bring the whole of the province under the reformed system, there still remained some thirty districts and departments in which the change was only partial, and more than twenty in which no change at all was made. The consequence was that the authorities in these particular districts were constantly in trouble on account of short delivery of taxes, and were obliged to demand from the people the amount at which they were originally assessed independently of the actual number of the population at the time. So hardly were the people pressed at times, that men have been known to sell their wives and children to raise the money they were called upon to pay, and in some instances to run away altogether in order to avoid their obligations. Conscientious authorities, recognising the injustice of this tax, made good the annual deficiency out of their private resources, until the burden became so heavy that they sank under it never to rise again, involving in their fall the unfortunate people upon whom the defalcations bore with equal weight. This being the state of affairs in years of plenty, it is not difficult to imagine what a terrible burden the tax becomes in years of scarcity and dearth, and with a view to remedying matters the memorialist now proposes to direct the local authorities to take a fresh census of the population and compare the old registers with the ones they will now draw up, when application will be made to His Majesty for permission to reduce the tax in districts where the population is found to fall short of that given in the old census, and to allow the poll tax, where there are people to pay it, to be merged into the land tax. Thus a steady and unfluctuating revenue can be depended on, and at the same time a beneficial reform will be instituted. The third and last suggestion that the memorialist has to make is in reference to the system of enforced service or escuage, which he should like to see exercised with greater uniformity and moderation. In the time of the Han dynasty a law was made under which any man above the age of twenty was liable to be called on to give his services to the State; and in the T'ang dynasty this law was so far modified that each man was obliged to give the Government twenty days service every year; while, in the Sung dynasty, the system of procuring a substitute by a commutative payment or otherwise was introduced, and has been in operation ever since. This compulsory service has been more burdensome in the northern than in the southern provinces. In Shansi particularly, with one frontier adjacent to that of the metropolitan province, and communication existing with Kansuh and Szech'wan on the other, what with military service, transport service, and *Tsang-ch'ai* or conscription for Tibet, a continuous succession of drafts was made on the male population, who were also harrassed with calls for beasts of burden and carts, as well as with demands for porterage and yamên duty. Now, compulsory service has its origin in taxation, and where taxes are heavy it is heavy too, being correspondingly light when they are light. Moreover, there is a want of uniformity in the incidence of this burden. Where it is equally distributed over each district, ward, or tithing, there is a certain

amount of justice and fairness in the claim for labour or service, but when, as is often the case, each tithing takes its turn, this one this year and that the next, it may and does happen that the amount of service performed is very irregular, one tithing getting much more than another, with the result that unscrupulous characters profit by the irregularity. For instance, it is a common practice for a man to sell his land at a high price, with the condition that it shall continue in his name on the register, and that he will be responsible for any rates that may be levied on it for expenses connected with compulsory services. At the end of four or five years he seizes his opportunity and decamps, leaving his fellow villagers to pay the assessment on land of which they cannot find the owner, and to do the work that he would have been called upon to do. The grievous nature of this service is universally recognised, and a reform is loudly called for. With a view to this end, therefore, the memorialist now proposes to equalise its distribution and diminish its severity, and, with His Majesty's permission, will instruct local authorities to call for no forced service other than that laid down by regulation, which must be strictly adhered to, and forbidding them, under pain of condign punishment, to compel the service of carts, and draught animals unless they have proper authority to do so. With regard to the abuses in connection with the practise of holding the tax collector responsible for taxes not forthcoming, the present is a favourable opportunity for instituting a reform, and the memorialist would suggest that in future taxes be collected only on the total yield of each district, and that one tithing or ward shall not be called upon to make good the shortcomings of another, or, in other words, that "the cap of Chang shall not be put upon the head of Li."

The above reforms are but a few selected, as being particularly urgent, out of the thousands that are needed for the proper reorganisation of the province. There are many others which will equally admit of no delay, but without funds nothing can be done, and as these are not forthcoming in sufficient quantity, all the memorialist can do is conscientiously to set to work with the help of his subordinates and undertake them one by one. In the meantime he begs to lay before Their Majesties this expression of his views upon the reforms that are immediately needed as a first step towards the reorganisation of the province. (For decree see *Gazette* of 5th July.)

July 22nd.—(1-2) Decrees acknowledging the receipt of reports from the Superintendents of the Live-stock and House Duty in Peking, in which they state that the regular amount of taxes has been raised, but that they have been unable to provide the supplementary amount they were called upon to provide. The reports are referred to the Board of Revenue for consideration.

(3) A decree in answer to a representation from the Censor T'ien Han-ch'e, who requests that certain officials may be severely punished for fraudulently appropriating relief with which they had been entrusted for distribution. The request is granted, and the higher authorities, whose want of supervision led to the acts on the part of the district and department Magistrates, to which the Censor calls attention, are to receive a penalty one degree more severe than that to which they would have been liable under ordinary circumstances. Provincial high authorities are, finally, reminded that it is their duty to see that their subordinates display a greater amount of self-respect, and to enforce the penalties they are authorised to employ with redoubled severity in cases of this sort.

(4) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Court of Censors, reporting that an ex-official lately serving as Magistrate of the T'ung-ling district, in An-hwei, who was cashiered on the representation of the Governor of that province that his administrative ability was of a very ordinary kind, has appealed against the denunciation, which he declared was unjustified. The Governor of Anhwei is directed to ascertain the truth of this denial, and to report thereon.

(5) Tso Tsung-t'ang and his coadjutor Liu Tien report that a mutiny broke out in April last amongst the irregular troops under the command of Yü King-k'uei, an expectant colonel stationed at a place called Kêng Kia-yai, in the sub-prefecture of Ti-tao in Shênsi, under the following circumstances. The colonel had received instructions from memorialists not to grant leave of absence to more than ten men of his corps each month, in order to secure a regular attendance of the men at drill, and he had mustered the force to explain to them the tenour of his instructions, when one Yang T'ien-si at the head of about twenty others came forward and complained of leave being refused to such long-service men as themselves, after which they beat their drums and tried to raise a mutiny. The colonel immediately endeavoured to restore order with the aid of his body guard, but the mutineers showed resistance and set

fire to their barracks, after having killed five of his men. Many of them then made their escape, but the ringleaders, five in number, were seized, and sent to the capital of the province for trial, and as they freely admitted their guilt they were summarily executed. The memorialists considered it necessary to afford a salutary warning to the numerous regiments stationed within the frontier, amongst which there is much discontent owing to the large arrears of pay that are due to them, and the recent restrictions that have been placed upon them in the matter of leave. Orders have been given for the arrest of the mutineers who are still at large.

July 23rd.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien reports a fall of rain in the capital of three inches and upwards of saturation.

(1) A decree. Some time since We sent instructions to Li Hung-chang and the Governors of Shansi and Honan to report whether, in their opinion, an entire remission of taxes should be granted in the various districts in their respective provinces that have been visited by famine, and also whether it would be advisable to remit or delay the levy of any portion of the land tax in the country bordering on the famine districts where the effects of the drought have not been so disastrous. Having heard that locusts had appeared in Hien-hien and other places in Chihli, We also sent orders to Li Hung-chang to see that steps were taken for their capture, and that a careful watch for their appearance was kept in other places. Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan now reports that it would be advisable to wait until the beginning of the autumn before instituting enquiries upon which to base an opinion as to the advisability of collecting or remitting the land tax for the *sia mang*, or second period of the financial year, in the province under his jurisdiction. Reports have not been received from Chihli and Honan. The Court is deeply exercised at the condition of the suffering people. The *sia mang*, or second period of taxation, is now close at hand, but how could We endure to press hardly on Our people when they are upset and overwhelmed with poverty and misery! We hereby direct the Governor-General and Governors of the provinces in question, in reverent obedience to Our earlier decree, at once to report to Us to what extent remission of taxes should be granted in the various districts that have been visited by famine.

(2) A decree appointing Hia Kia-kao (one of the Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamên) to the post of Director of the Court of the Imperial Stud.

(3) Mei K'i-chao, Governor of Chêkiang, memorialises that he has received a report from Shih Chih-hün, Sub-prefect of Ting-hai (Chusan) to the effect that the *tipao* of a small village on the island had reported to him that a small barbarian vessel having been driven by stress of weather to a port close to his village, he hired a boat and put off to inspect her. He found thirteen barbarians on board, whose language was unintelligble, so he sent them on, with their vessel, to Ting-hai. The Sub-prefect then had them up before him, and found that their heads were not shaven and they wore their hair rolled in a knot at the back; they had short sleeved coats, with a long collar or neckpiece opening down the front. As their language was unintelligble, and the Sub-prefect had no interpreter at his command, he could not put any questions to them, but he found that one of them had a rough knowledge of the Chinese written character, so a pen was given him, and from what he wrote the following story of their adventures was gathered:—They were all Coreans, and came from the Ling-yên district in the Ts'üan Lo circuit. The writer was called Liang Mêng-jan, and held a small official position in the Wên Miao or Temple to Confucious. In February last, he had been ordered to prepare four cases of oranges and shaddocks, which he was to take tribute to his own country (?本國) with a despatch from the Magistrate. Having given the names of the men on board the boat and the various capacities in which they were employed, he went on to describe how they left the seaport of the district above mentioned on the 24th of March, and soon after they got to sea met with a gale of wind which did great damage to their boat, so they threw the boxes of oranges and the despatch overboard, and drifted, they knew not whither, at the mercy of the wind. On the 10th April they were driven to a strange port, and fortunately rescued from their perilous condition. They humbly prayed that compassion might be taken upon them, and that they might be sent back to their own country. Having thus ascertained their nationality and the story of their disasters, the Sub-prefect comfortably housed and fed them, and then proceeded to inspect the barbarian boat. She had a sharp-pointed bow and a wide stern, and had been so knocked about that all her gear was gone. There was no cargo in the hold, which was quite empty. On reference to the law on

the subject, the Sub-prefect found that it would be his duty to forward these men under escort to the Prefect of Ningpo, who would send them on to the provincial capital for transmission to Peking, from whence they would be sent in charge of an interpreter to their own country, their boat being sold and the proceeds handed over to them. He had accordingly passed the men on to the Prefect of Ningpo, after having supplied them with clothes and provisions. The Governor confirms the Sub-prefect's interpretation of the law on the subject of shipwrecked Coreans, and adds that on their arrival at Hangchow he will see that they are duly cared for and passed on to Peking.

(4) Liu K'uen-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kwang provinces, requests that a captain in the army stationed in Kwangsi, who has been gambling in his house in company with a number of disreputable characters, in utter defiance of the rules of the garrison, may be cashiered and placed on his trial. There is a law to the effect that military officers found guilty of opening gambling establishments shall be cashiered and for ever debarred from employment in an official capacity.—Granted by rescript.

July 24th.—(1) List of officers selected during the month of May for appointments to posts in the various provinces and minor offices in the capital. Of these, some have been selected for merit, and others have obtained the privilege by purchase.

[*Note.*—The system of sale of office and official titles, which had its origin in the necessity for raising large sums of money to cover the cost of repairs to the banks of the Yellow River, has, since its regular inauguration in or about the year 1851, become so complicated in its details and extensive in its operations, that whole volumes are now devoted to an explanation of the various methods in which an aspirant for office or official rank can purchase the coveted honour, and an exhaustive enquiry into the subject would be far beyond the compass of an explanatory note. A general idea of the process of official advancement may, however, perhaps be gathered from the following rough outline :—

It is hardly necessary to state that any Chinese not of "mean" parentage or occupation is eligible for employment in an official capacity, but all who have not obtained the degree of *Kü-jên*, or provincial graduate, are obliged, before buying their way into office, to purchase the literary degree of *Kien-shêng*, or student of the Imperial Academy, which costs in the case of *sin ts'ai*, or Licentiates, the sum of Tls. 90, and in that of *pai ting tze*, or those who have no literary degree, Tls. 108. Each province that has obtained the Imperial permission to *K'ai-küan*, or open offices for the sale of rank and titles, has the right to establish agencies at any town in the Empire, and one or more of these are to be found in every city of importance, presided over, in some cases, by an officer specially detached by the particular province for which the contributions are raised, but more generally managed by the Superintendent of the local *lekin* collectorate, who is paid a small commission for his trouble. The aspirant for office will find every facility at these establishments for purchasing his first grade and any successive ones he may wish to buy, as they are provided with blank certificates from the Board of Revenue, which only require filling in with the name of the purchaser, his age, personal description, and antecedents for three generations. as soon as the money is paid down. Once in possession of a certificate of this nature, the newly created *Kien-shêng* can proceed to purchase a higher rank. The branches open to him are so numerous that we cannot here do more than select one which is more or less typical of the rest, and for the sake of showing the amount that can be expended on this object, we will take the post of Taotai or Intendant of Circuit, this being the highest purchaseable grade, and will call the aspirant Wang in order to simplify the illustration. Mr. Wang, then, having decided to invest his money in the purchase of a substantive post, and having selected the particular province to which he will contribute, applies there for permission to buy a Taotaiship. We shall have more to say later on on the subject of the office he selects. For the bare title of Taotai he will be charged Tls. 11,808, and will be placed on what is called the *shuang yüeh hsüan yung tan* 雙月選用 or list of officers to be selected for Taotaiships falling vacant in any of the months of the year divisible by two, the cause of this reservation being that unless some vacancies are kept back for the officials who are advanced for merit in the ordinary run of official promotion, they would be entirely crowded out by purchasers, who have therefore to pay more for immunity from this drawback. Mr. Wang, therefore, though now possessed of the title of Taotai, and eligible for selection under certain conditions, must pay a good deal more money before he can hope to obtain perferment. His next step is to buy himself the privilege of being placed first on his list for selection ; this will cost

him Tls. 864. He must then be transferred from the *shuang yüeh* list to that of the *tan yüeh*, or the odd number months, at a cost of Tls. 864 more; and, finally, must purchase freedom from the limitation of any particular months by the payment of another Tls. 864. His title is then *pu lun shuang tan yüeh tsi hsüan tao*, or Taotai for immediate selection in any month in the year. He must now go through the process of "selection," but he has little chance of being selected without purchasing the privilege, and for this he must pay Tls. 1,440, in consideration of which sum the Board of Revenue will allot him a province, after which he begins to stand a chance for employment, and the time has arrived for him to go to Peking to be presented to the Emperor, and in course of time to be received in audience. So remote, however, is the probability of preferment, that he must go one step further if he wishes to secure a post, and purchase the right of selecting the province in which he wishes to serve by a payment of Tls. 2,880 more, or double the amount charged by the Board for choosing his province for him. In return for this payment, he is provided with a certificate which he must present to the Governor-General or Governor of the province he has selected, and must take up his residence in the provincial capital until something can be found for him to do. He may not be able to obtain the post he covets for fifteen or twenty years, but in the meantime he is eligible for employment on special service, which, if he shows any administrative capacity, will afford him pickings more than sufficient to cover the capital he has sunk.

From the above figures we discover that the post of Taotai costs, exclusive of the expenses of a journey to Peking and the fees that presentation at Court entails, Tls. 18,828, made up of the following items:—

1—Purchase of *Kien-shêng*.....Tls.	108
2—Title of Taotai.....	11,808
3—Priority of selection, 3rd grade	864
4— ,, ,, 2nd ,,	864
5— ,, ,, 1st ,,	864
6—Nomination to Province.....	1,440
7—Selection of do.	2,880
Total Tls....	18,828

The above figures are taken from a work entitled "Sin Tsêng Ch'ow Siang Shih Li" 新增籌餉事例, which contains full information on the subject; but as it consists simply of a collection of memorials and decrees to which no reference index is attached, some trouble will be experienced in extracting details. It would appear, however, that although a regular tariff of prices for different offices is laid down, the figures given are merely nominal, as each province has at one time or another obtained permission to modify the tariff, until at the present time it is possible to purchase an office at an abatement of as much as two-fifths of the original cost. The cause of this reduction is possibly to be found in the competition that goes on between the various provinces, each of which in their anxiety to obtain funds, endeavours to undersell the other with a view to attracting subscribers. The result, as might have been anticipated, is an absolute block in the purchase system, which renders it necessary for the aspirant to actual preferment to expend sums in bribes and *douceurs* far in excess of the legal tariff. The practical results of such a system are too well-known to require demonstration.]

(2) A decree appointing Hi Chên 錫縝 to the post of Reader of the Grand Secretariat, and Liang Kwei 良貴 to that of Tutor of the Imperial Academy.

(3) A decree expressing the Imperial gratitude for the refreshing rain that fell for some twenty-four hours without intermission in the capital, on the 22nd instant, and announcing His Majesty's intention of proceeding in person to the T'ai-kao-tien, on the 26th instant, to offer incense in token thereof. Services are to be conducted simultaneously at other temples by princes and nobles whose names are given.

(4-7) Memorials by the officers forming the Provincial Government of Kiangsu severally reporting the resumption of their regular duties on the return of the Governor-General to office.

(8) Postscript memorial by Ting Pao-chên, Governor-General of Szech'wan, announcing that, in addition to the sums already forwarded, a further contribution of Tls. 14,000 has now been sent by him to Honan. This amount is made up of an appropriation from the provincial treasury and private subscriptions from himself and others.

(9) Postscript memorial by Wên Koh, Governor of Shantung. In consequence of the great length of the Grand Canal, it has for many years past been divided into two sections, one of which has to be dredged and kept in repair by the Director-General of the Yellow River, and the other by the

Governor of Shantung. In consequence of the whole of the tribute rice from Kiang Peh, or the country north of the Great River, having been sent forward this year by sea, the dredging work that should have been done last winter was not undertaken, but in a memorial reporting the result of a survey of the northern division of the Canal, or that under memorialist's charge, he gave a minute description of the conditions affecting the set of the stream, and announced his intention of dredging a channel before the arrival of the summer freshet for the purpose of floating back the empty junks, deferring the inspection of the Yellow River, with a view to ascertaining the amount of deep dredging required as a preparation for next year's transport, until after the autumn freshet. After this memorial had been despatched, he directed the Prefect of Tung-ch'ang to estimate the cost of dredging this channel for the empty junks, and in course of time received his report. He said that the plan he would suggest would be to deepen and widen the sluice at the mouth of the Peh-yün-ho or northern division of the canal, and remove the mounds of mud and silt that had accumulated between the sluice shutting off the waters of the Yellow River, and Ts'i-ki, dredging the channel in places where it was found to be necessary. This done, at the period of the summer freshets the sluice gate could be opened, and the waters of the Yellow River let into the Canal, communication thus being opened with the Wei River, and the empty junks enabled to float over the shallow parts and proceed on their journey southward. The estimate for these operations was put down at Tls. 1,889, and as the plan proposed seemed a good one and the charges reasonable, they were sanctioned by memorialist, who gave orders for the work to be put in hand at once. Inasmuch, however, as the southern division of the canal lies higher than that of the northern, and the bed of the Wei River is at a still lower level, if it happens at the great autumn freshet that the Yellow River rises while the Wei does not, when the sluice that retains the water of the Yellow River is opened, the water which flows downwards will not be met and aided, as it were, by that of the Wei River, and it will run to waste. The empty boats, as they travel from north to south, have to work against the stream, and if the water of the Wei River is too low they will have some difficulty in entering the basin at its entrance. It will be necessary therefore to make a careful inspection just beforehand, and if it be found that the flow of the Wei River be weaker than that of the Yellow River, a dam or sluice will be constructed and kept shut until such time as the waters of the Wei have risen, when it can be opened and the boats passed through. If it be found that there is not sufficient water at the source, but plenty lower down, then a dam must be constructed at Chang Ch'iu-k'ou, and steps taken for forcing or pumping water into the Canal. These plans, however, are speculative; if the autumn freshets are strong enough to fill both the Wei and Yellow Rivers, there will be no necessity for their adoption, or for the expenditure of Tls. 2,000 that this would entail. As regards the old channel at Kiang-chwang, although the mud has silted up in places so much as to render it impassable, as the upward bound grain junks have taken for many seasons past to making a detour by way of She-kia-k'iao, working against the stream, the empty junks can easily adopt the same route.

July 25th.—(1) A long and uninteresting memorial from Wên Koh, Governor of Shantung, which occupies the greater portion of the *Gazette*, reporting the rehearing of an appeal case. The appeal had its origin in a dispute of long standing between the inhabitants of the Kin-siang and Yü-t'ai districts, which had been the cause of much litigation. A river called the Liu-ho, which flows through both these districts, had considerably altered its character when the Yellow River changed its course in 1855, the silt then forced into it by the Yellow River having so raised its bed that it overflowed at times and turned the surrounding country into an enormous lake. The villagers higher up the stream, naturally anxious to preserve their land from inundation, built up dams and dykes to confine the water of the river, which then did greater damage to the country lower down. A certain amount of ill-feeling had been engendered, and a slight dispute between some of the members of the two parties was magnified into a case of assault and battery, upon which a petition to the Censorate was based. The memorial concludes, in the usual manner, with a list of the penalties, all of them slight, that have been inflicted upon the persons responsible for this unnecessary appeal.

(2) The Governor of Kiangsi denounces the Police-master of the Tê-hing district. While he was in temporary charge of the magistrary during the absence of his superior on duty, two of the prisoners in the jail fell to fighting over a mess of pork,

and one poked the other in the eye with his chopstick so violently that he died three days afterwards. That the men should have had an opportunity to fight shows a great want of supervision on the part of the Police-master, and as there is reason to believe that he has on many occasions relaxed the severity of the prison discipline in favour of prisoners who have made it worth his while, the memorialist requests that he may be cashiered and placed on his trial with a view to ascertaining to what extent this suspicion is correct.—Granted by Rescript.

July 26th.—(1) Memorial by Li Han-chang, Governor of the Hu-kwang provinces, requesting the bestowal of one step of honorary rank upon Chên Ts'ing-hwa, Magistrate of the Ma-ch'êng district, in Hupeh, who has delivered the full quota of land tax for the past year at which his district was assessed. Diligence and activity in the collection of taxes upon land, which are the sole source from whence the Peking contingent and military contributions are drawn, is manifestly a most desirable quality in the administrative officers of the provincial Government, and should be encouraged in every way, as laxity or idleness on their part would have a serious effect upon the revenue. In a report received from the Financial Commissioner of Hupeh, he states that the district in question is the only one in which the full quota of land taxes for the 3rd year of Kwang-sü has been delivered. In some instances the land tax has been paid, but the monetary commutation in lieu of the grain tax has fallen short, or the converse has been the case. In others, both these may have been paid in full, but arrears or defalcations in consequence of a change of incumbents have caused short delivery. The total at which the Ma-ch'êng district is assessed amounts, with "waste allowance," to over Tls. 30,000, and the Magistrate has shown commendable activity in collecting this sum in full. As, under the regulations, he is consequently entitled to one step in the honorary grades of rank that can be exchanged against penalties incurred, the memorialist begs that His Majesty will be pleased to bestow the same upon him.—Referred to the proper Board.

(2) Liu K'uen-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kwang provinces, reports that in view of the unsettled condition of the Kiang-peh, or North River district in Kwangtung, he has organised a small force of irregular troops, numbering 360 in all, and, having divided them into three companies, has placed Brigadier-General Liu Yü-ch'eng in command. The force to which the title of "Yüeh An Yung" has been given, is stationed at the northern and eastern Customs barriers outside the city of Canton, where they are undergoing a regular course of drill, and will be available at any time, either for local defence purposes or detachment on special service.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a long and uninteresting memorial, from the same officer, detailing with great minuteness the circumstances of a burglary committed by several disbanded militia men in the Ta-yü district, who, having murdered the owner of the place attacked by them and his two servants, set fire to a straw shed or hut in which he was living and burnt his wife to death. They were all captured and summarily executed.

July 27th.—(1) Memorial by P'an Wei, Governor of Hupeh, reporting the trial of a case of adultery and murder under the following circumstances:—A woman whose maiden name was Wang (王) was married to a man called Wang (王) Pao-lin, a resident in the district town of Ku-ch'êng. In the early part of the year 1874, when her husband had gone away on some commercial business, Wang K'i-chao, his second cousin once removed, looked in, and finding the wife alone sat down and began to dally with her, with the result that a criminal intercourse was established and maintained for several months, until the woman became with child. One day in the month of May of the following year, when Wang K'i-chao was in the house sporting with the woman according to his wont, the husband suddenly returned and caught them. Wang K'i-chao promptly effected a retreat, but Wang Pao-lin extracted a confession of her guilt from his wife and severely beat her, promising that as soon as the offspring of her guilty amours should be born he would kill both her and the child, and prevent his disgrace from being spread abroad. In the meantime he changed his residence and went to live in a house outside the town, taking his wife with him, whom he constantly beat and reviled for her perfidy. One Wang She-t'ai, an intimate friend of Wang K'i-chao, was a constant visitor at the house until the injured husband forbad him to come any more, stigmatising him and his friend as low common fellows. Some three months after his return, Wang Pao-lin had again occasion to leave his home on business, and his wife having ascertained

that he would not be back for a week, sent a note to Wang K'i-chao asking him to call and see her. When he came she told him all that had happened, and how afraid she was that her husband would kill her after the child was born, adding that she had thought of murdering him in order to secure permanent and unmolested enjoyment of her adulterous intercourse. Wang K'i-chao, loth to relinquish his illicit pleasures, but fearing lest the husband might prove too strong an antagonist to attack singlehanded, sent for his friend Wang She-t'ai and invited him to assist him in his murderous designs, promising to reward him handsomely for his trouble Wang She-t'ai consented, and it was arranged that the two men should secrete themselves in the house previous to the husband's return and suffocate him in his sleep with a wet counterpane. They accordingly came on the evening upon which he was expected, and hid themselves in the house. Wang K'i-chao returned at dusk and immediately went to bed, but his wife stayed up on pretence of doing some needlework. At the end of an hour or more, when she saw he was sound asleep, she stealthily took a lined counterpane from the room and went out into the yard, where she soaked it in rice water and gave it to Wang K'i-chao, who took it into the house accompanied by Wang She-t'ai. They found the husband sleeping on his back with his nose in the air, so they took the counterpane and smothered his face in it, covering his mouth, nose and eyes. The sleeping man awoke in a fright and scratched Wang K'i-chao in his struggles to free himself. Wang K'i-chao then signed with his disengaged hand to Wang She-t'ai to get on top of Wang Pao-lin and sit astride of him to keep him down. Wang She-t'ai did so and held Wang Pao-lin's hands with both his own, but still he managed to free his head from the counterpane, and tried to call for assistance, whereupon Wang K'i-chao caught him by the throat and pressed his windpipe so hard that he could not utter a sound, and although he still struggled to free himself he was soon choked, and died from suffocation. The murderers then dragged the corpse of their victim out of the house, and proceeded to carry it to a pond outside the village into which they meant to throw it, but as they were passing the door of a relative of the murdered man they saw two watchmen in the distance, so they dropped the body and decamped. The watchmen discovered the body at the door of the relative's house and summoned him to see it, when he promptly identified it as that of Wang Pao-lin and reported the matter to the Magistrate. Enquiries were instituted which led to the discovery of the murderers and their subsequent arrest, but some delay in passing sentence was caused by the contradictory nature of the prisoners' statements, and the fact that the process of examination under torture could not be applied to the woman while she was *enceinte*. The case having been finally established against them, the three criminals were sentenced to death, the woman to *ling ch'e*, and the men to decapitation.

The above memorial occupies the whole of this day's *Gazette*, with the exception of a few pages containing reports on matters of a purely formal nature.

July 28th.—(1) Tséng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, requests the bestowal of a mark of approval upon Wei Tsu-tsin, an Assistant Sub-Prefect on approbation, who for the past two years has been engaged under the Director-General of the Yellow River in the Salt Preventive Service. Appointments of this nature are held for only two years, and it is customary to recommend the incumbent at the expiration of his term of service for the bestowal of some form of reward, if he has acquitted himself with zeal and diligence. There are six places in addition to the large salt producing area known as the Ho-tung, where salt is prepared, and unless the supervision and watch maintained are very thorough, pans for the illicit manufacture of salt are certain to be established. The officer in question has performed his duties zealously and successfully, and memorialist suggests that he be placed first on his list for appointment to a vacancy in token of the Imperial approbation.—Granted by Rescript.

(2) King Jui, Imperial Superintendent of the Eastern Mausolea, reports that he has filled two appointments in the buttery offices attached to the King Ling and Ting Ling respectively, and that in accordance with a decree of the Emperor Kia K'ing absolving officers appointed to subordinate offices at the Mausolea from previous attendance at the palace, he has not sent the newly appointed officers to Peking to be presented to His Majesty.

(3) Wên Koh announces the forwarding of a second instalment of contributions for Shansi, amounting altogether to Tls. 11,000.

(4) Tséng Kwoh-t'süan, Governor of Shansi, in a memorial acknowledging the receipt of eight memorial boards or tablets, which have been reverently

suspended by him in different temples, gives a return of the prices of grain and rates of exchange in various portions of the province. In the districts to the east of the capital, which suffered less severely last year than those in the south of the province, and are only seven days distant by road from Chihli, the tael of *Wên-yin* (or so-called pure silver) exchanged for 1,400 to 1,500 *cash*, and rice sold for Tls. 21-22 per picul. In the districts to the extreme south of the capital, where baggage animals had become extinct, and it was necessary to procure others by the offer of high rates of payment, the cost of carriage on each catty of rice amounted to over fifty *cash*, and as the rate of exchange for silver in these districts was extremely low, a tael realising no more than 900 *cash* or thereabouts, the porterage alone on each picul of rice amounted to fourteen or fifteen strings of *cash*. Hence the rice imported by Government could not be laid down in these districts under a cost of Tls. 30 or more, and that laid down by private speculators must have cost a still larger amount. At the commencement of the summer, Yên King-ming, the Famine Commissioner, wrote to say that rice flour was selling in the districts to the east of the river at 178 *cash* per catty, and 47-48 strings per picul, or Tls. 44-45. From these figures it may be seen that the difference between the rates in the southern districts and those to the east and north of the provincial capital does not amount to more than ten strings of *cash* or thereabouts, but that the silver values differ to the extent of more than Tls. 20. It should be explained that the quantities given above are reckoned in the *Min-hu*, or people's measure, in which the picul is exactly twice as much as the *Ts'ang-tan*, or granary picul. The present rates and those given in the month of April do not differ very much, but memorialist is afraid that his omission to explain the nature of the measure in which he was reckoning was the cause of extra anxiety to Their Majesties. With so fair a prospect of good harvests before them, the people are everywhere content, and as the same good fortune may be anticipated for the neighbouring provinces, as soon as importations from these arrive, prices are sure to fall. Indeed, news has just been received that prices of flour in districts of the neighbouring province of Shênsi have suddenly dropped from 170 *cash* to 90 or 100. Such unexpectedly good news has caused great rejoicing, but so far there is not much reduction in the rates prevailing at the provincial capital and places in the centre of the province.

July 29th.—(1) Memorial by P'an Wei, Acting Governor of Hupeh, reporting at great length the circumstances of a burglary committed by a number of disbanded braves on a shop in the Chung-siang district. Their intention was, in the first instance, to have committed a simple theft, but the noise made by the crowbar with which they tried to prize open the door awoke the proprietor and his sons, and on the spur of the moment they determined to proceed to violence. Dropping their crowbar, they seized a large stone and battered in the door, and having wounded the proprietor and his sons, who tried to keep them back, laid their hands on all they could find, and decamped. The chief actors in this crime were summarily beheaded, and the others severally dealt with in proportion to the measure of their guilt.

(2) The only other document in this day's *Gazette* is a memorial from Fêng Shên, Military Governor of Heh-lung-kiang, reporting a case of rape and the punishment inflicted on the offender, a youth called Kin Hai, son of a bannerman in the Bordered Yellow Corps, who resided in a small village called Hankow, in Tsi-tsi-har. At noon on the 11th June last, this youth went to a river about a *li* from the village to look for wild duck's eggs, and there he saw the daughter of one Kin Têh, a little girl twelve years of age, whose name was Ki Koh. She was accompained by her little brother, eight years old, and a little girl, the daughter of an inmate of her father's house, a year younger than herself. They were tending horses and cattle, and Kin Hai went up and began to talk with them. After they had chatted some time, evil thoughts suggested themselves to him, and in pursuance of his base designs he sent the little boy and the younger girl off to a distance to drive up some of the cattle they were tending. When they had gone, he seized Ki Koh and threw her to the ground, after which he tied her hands with his waistband. His vile purpose effected, he became alarmed by the cries and sobs of the girl and ran off and hid himself. The child went home and told her parents, and the father, filled with rage and indignation, told the village elder, who went with him and arrested the lad. When placed on his trial he confessed to his crime, and the case was in due course of time passed on to memorialist for a final hearing. Lest by any chance the prisoner's confession might not be complete in all its details or correct in every

respect, he was subjected by memorialist to the most rigorous examination, and as his evidence under this process was in every respect the same as that given by him before, nothing remained but to pass sentence upon him. The law lays down that whosoever shall be guilty of a rape upon a child under twelve and over ten years of age, shall be punished by beheading after the autumn assize, and as no extenuation of the guilt of Kin Hai can be admitted, he having committed the crime in broad daylight, he has been sentenced to death after the autumn assize in accordance with the law above quoted.

July 30th.—(1) Memorial by the Censor K'ung Hien-ki on corruption and maladministration in Honan, already summarised in an Imperial decree of July 16th.

(2) Postscript memorial by Ho King, Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chêkiang, reporting that at five p.m. on the 22nd May, the city of T'aiwan Fu was suddenly visited by a "strange" wind and a darkness that spread over everything to an extent that rendered shapes and forms indistinguishable. [The hurricane or whirlwind] came up from the south-west, bringing rain with it, and struck the city wall, from whence it made its way by the West gate into the Governor's temporary residence, tearing down the entrance and second gates, as well as the inner pavilion and other places. It then travelled from the back of this Yamên to the north-west corner of the outer wall, and from thence made its way across the city to the northern wall, raising in its progress a cloud of *débris* composed of fragments of houses, tiles, and uprooted trees. The large brick screen or wall in front of the yamên was levelled to the ground and the flagstaffs broken short off, while inside a large half of the rooms and building, if not completely levelled, were all set aslant by the force of the wind, and not a single tile remained. The outer wall on the North and West sides was blown down, and at least half of the soldiers' quarters on the archery course were levelled, sixteen of the occupants being injured by their fall. More than one hundred feet of the crenelated battlements on the northern wall of the city were destroyed, and almost all the houses along the course taken by the hurricane were blown down or damaged, some scores of people being crushed by the falling timbers, in two cases with fatal results. All the other public offices were more or less damaged by the loss of tiles and so forth, but not to an extent that signifies much. On receipt of the above particulars from Hia Hien-lun, Taotai of T'aiwan, the memorialist instructed him to furnish a report on the origin and cause of this extraordinary wind, and the amount of damage, if any, caused by it amongst the shipping in harbour. (For decree see *Gazette* of 15th July.)

(3) The Governor-General of Szech'wan reports the execution by *ling-ch'e* of a man who murdered his adopted father in a fit of drunken rage, when he hardly knew what he was about. The man had come home drunk one day, by no means an uncommon occurrence with him, and got into a rage with his wife about some trifling domestic matter, for which he was going to correct her with a vegetable chopper or knife, but she ran away and hid herself. The adopted father came in when he heard the noise, and shouted to his son to desist, when the son, stupid and blind with drink, struck at him with the knife and wounded him. The father, enraged at his audacity, seized him by the coat and was for dragging him then and there to the authorities, and the son in his excitement and struggles to free himself struck his father again, who fell to the ground mortally wounded and died shortly afterwards.

July 31st. — (1) A decree permitting Kiang Ning-hio, Financial Commissioner of Shênsi, to vacate his post and retire to his native place for the purpose of superintending the burial of certain relations, and attending to his own health. Wang Sze-yi 王思沂 Judge in Anhwei, is promoted to the vacant post, and his place is to be taken by Hu Yü-t'an 胡玉垣.

(2) A decree permitting the temporary retention of a Sub-prefect on river duty who has been cashiered, Wên Pin having represented that he is very short of officers possessed of experience in river engineering.

(3) Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szechw'an, requests the addition of a number of degrees, civil and military, to be competed for by the scholars of various districts, in recognition of the sums contributed by these districts towards the public exchequer. Under certain regulations, which he quotes at length, the addition of one civil and one military degree can be applied for on every contribution of Tls. 10,000 by any one district, provided a recognition has not been granted or applied for in any other form. The privilege is now applied for on behalf of eight districts, for each of which ten additional degrees for one year are solicited,

as well as four at the next provincial examination. The subscriptions in consideration of which the application is made amount to Tls. 1,490,000.—Referred to the Board.

(4) The same officer, in a postscript memorial, applies for a token of Imperial approbation on behalf of a young lady named Liu, the daughter of a deceased Sup-prefect in Kwangtung, who was betrothed as a child to Sun Ting-p'in, son of Sun Che, formerly Treasurer in Chihli. Her affianced husband died last year, and the girl, overcome by grief, disfigured her face and wept tears of blood, absolutely refusing to eat a morsel. Her mother and relations exhorted and consoled her, and the girl, afraid to put an end to herself lest she should grieve them, insisted upon fulfilling the duties of a widow and entering the family of her betrothed. Finding it impossible to shake her determination, arrangements were being made to carry out her wishes, when the girl died from an illness brought on by the grief and trouble she had passed through. Marks of Imperial approbation having been obtained during the last few years for the daughters of four officials whose names he gives, the memorialist ventures to apply for a similar honor for the young lady whose story he has narrated.—Granted by Rescript.

August 1st.—(Memorials issued for publication.) Lin K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kwang Provinces, applies for a month's sick leave.—Granted by Rescript.

(1) A Decree. The Censor Hia Hien-ts'ing requests that regulations may be drawn up under which Sub-prefects and assistant Sub-prefects on probation may not be allowed to act as magistrates of departments or districts.—Let the Board of Civil Office consider the matter and report thereon.

(2) A decree appointing P'an Wei 潘霨 to be Governor of Hupeh, and Tu Jui-lien 杜瑞聯 to be Governor of Yünnan.

(3) T'an Kün-p'ei 譚鈞培 is appointed Taotai of the Fêng, Ying, Liu, Siu circuit.

(4) Memorial from Shên Pao-chêng and the Governor of Kiangsu reporting that Lo Fang-k'i, the Financial Commissioner, is obliged to vacate his post in consequence of his father's death, and requesting that an officer may be speedily appointed to take his place.

(5) K'o Mêng-ngo, Tartar General at Ning-hia in Kansuh, represents that in consequence of the failure of the Shansi Government to forward him the usual military supplies, added to protracted delay in the arrival of the contributions due from Szech'wan, he has been unable to issue pay to his troops for the past month, and has no means of continuing payments. He begs therefore that orders may be given to other provinces to supply the funds due from Shansi until such time as that province is able to make them. He also requests that stringent orders may be sent to Szech'wan for contributions due by that province to be sent on without further delay.—Referred to the Board of Revenue.

(6) Li Hung-chang and his colleagues the members of the Grand Secretariat represent that the number of Chinese Sub-Chancellors, whose duty it is to draft replies or endorsements for memorials presented to the Throne, is at present insufficient. This post has generally been filled by officers selected from among the Chinese Chief Supervisors in the Supervisorate of Instruction. There are only two at present on the staff (instead of five, the usual number), and the memorialists have accordingly drawn up a list of officers from the office of the Grand Secretariat, the Supervisorate of Instruction, and other Yamêns, who have passed through the Han-lin as *kin she* or metropolitan graduates, from which they beg His Majesty to select two or three for employment in the capacity referred to.—His Majesty was pleased to indicate his choice by placing a circle with the vermilion pencil round the names of T'uh Che-siang, Chief Supervisor of Instruction; Chow Jui-ts'ing, Director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship; and T'uh Shu-ming, Director of the Court of State Ceremonial.

(7) K'o Mêng-ngo, Tartar-General at Ning-hia, reports that the Government postal service established through the territory of the Mongols of Alashan in the year 1863, and served by those tribes, has now been abolished. This route through the Alashan region was adopted in consequence of the obstructions on the *nai ti* or inner route, and the want of funds to maintain the service. Memorials, despatches, and military stores were carried by this route with safety and expedition until last year, when the roads became unsafe in consequence of the numerous gangs of banditti that were wandering about. Memorialist and his colleague have on several occasions reported to His Majesty their intention of resuming the inner, or old route, but inasmuch as operations in the New Dominion were still in progress, it was not politic to abandon the old route without due reflection. Order having now been restored both

inside and outside the frontier, and the courier service by the inner route now working satisfactorily, the outer or Alashan route has been abandoned, to the satisfaction and convenience of the Mongol tribes, who were obliged to work it at great personal inconvenience.

August 2nd.—(1) Decree in answer to a memorial from Hwang T'i-fang, who represents that the disreputable system of exacting *kuei* or customary donations, gratuities, or fees, that prevails in all the provinces, is detrimental to proper administration, and requests their unqualified abrogation. The exaction of every description of disreputable fee is prohibited by law, but the Supervisor states that of late years Commissioners, Intendants of Circuit and Prefects, have, in the majority of instances, been in the habit of giving and receiving presents or offerings upon their birthdays and the three festivals or periods into which the financial year is divided, and that this custom leads to the exercise of patronage and favouritism to the serious detriment of proper administration. One of the functions of officers forming provincial committees of administration is to scrutinise the conduct of those beneath them, and this being the case it is manifestly their duty so to regulate their personal conduct and deportment that they may carry their subordinates in their path. If this sordid and mean custom of exacting fees does actually exist as alleged by the Supervisor, it is most unconstitutional, and provincial high authorities will give positive orders for its absolute abolition under every form and guise. The Supervisor further suggests that a fixed sum be hereafter allowed for the expenditure incurred on public account by Judges, Intendants of Circuit, and Prefects, in the manner that is adopted in Kiangsi, Fuhkiên, and Anhwei. A report on the subject is called for from the high authorities concerned.

(2) Decree appointing Wang Ta-king 王大經 to the post of Financial Commissioner of Hupeh, and Yao Kin-yuan 姚覲元 to that of Judge in the same province.

(3) Shêng T'ai 升泰 is appointed Financial Commissioner in Yünnan, and Tsêng Show 增壽 Judge of Chêkiang.

(4) Decree directing the Governor-General and Governor of Kiangsu to select from amongst the Prefects in actual employment in that province one to fill the post of Prefect of Soochow.

(5) Wang Che-han 王之翰 is appointed sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat with brevet rank as Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies.

(6) Decree consenting to an application from the Governor of Shansi that a penalty may be inflicted upon the acting Financial Commissioner for his want of precaution in allowing his Yamên to take fire, whereby eleven dwelling rooms were burnt.

(7) Memorial by Shên Pao-chêng, requesting that the official biography of Fêng Kün-kwang, late Taotai at Shanghai, may be prepared by the State Historiographer's Office. A brief sketch is given of the late officer's career. A native of Kwangtung and a provincial graduate, he competed at the triennial examinations in Peking in the year 1853. His father having been imprisoned for some offence, the late Taotai attended on him with unwearying care and devotion for six years, when his father was banished to Ili and he accompanied him there, unwilling to leave him for a single day. Eventually, at his father's command, he returned to Peking to present himself for examination, and in the year 1862 was summoned by Tsêng Kwoh-fan, late Governor-General of the Two Kiang, to act as his *aide de camp*. His father died, and while in mourning for him he went beyond the Wall to take charge of his remains, passing by Kwei-hwa through the grass country of Mongolia, over many thousand *li* of disturbed country where he suffered from numerous alarms, and was at last brought to a stand-still and unable to proceed further in consequence of the route being blocked. At this time, Li Hung-chang was in temporary charge of the Two Kiang Provinces, and had just organised the Kiangnan Arsenal. Being in want of an experienced director, he offered the post to the late Taotai, who declined with tears on the ground that his father's remains had not yet been recovered. Li Hung-chang then appealed to his patriotism, and urged him on the ground of public spirit to accept the post. Kün-kwang eventually consented, and devoted himself to his duties with untiring energy, but his mind was constantly occupied with thoughts of his father, and he would shed tears of longing, never for a moment forgetting [the fact of his unburied condition.] He was appointed Taotai of the Su Sung T'ai circuit in 1874, and repeatedly applied for permission to be freed from his duties that he might have leisure once more to go beyond the Wall, but his superiors invariably induced him to remain, consoling him [for his self

reproach] with the argument that the unsettled state of the western frontier rendered communication impossible with the region he wished to visit. He attended to his duties for two years, during which time he had many matters of serious import to deal with, foreign as well as native, until, in 1876, he heard of the recapture of Urumtsi, when he applied with every manifestation of earnest sincerity for permission to vacate his post. A year's leave of absence was granted him, and the Taotai set forth on his journey braving the summer heat. In the winter of 1877 he succeeded in recovering his father's remains, and brought them back with him, reaching Kiukiang at the end of April last. Having traced his career to this point, the memorialist goes no further, omitting all mention of his death, and concluding with a eulogy on the late Taotai's administrative capacity and his filial piety, which led him to brave such hardship and fatigue. The self-denial of men who will give up authority and official place to search for their parents is often made mention of in historical record, and the sacred dynasty that has ruled this Empire [for many generations] has always been pleased to exalt and glorify those [whose acts of piety and devotion are] beyond the common. The memorialist, therefore, venture to suggest the compilation of the late Taotai's biography by the State Historigrapher's Office. This memorial is reverently offered by memorialist in conjunction with Li Hung-chang and Wu Yuan-ping, the Governor. (For decree see *Gazette* of July 18th.)

(8) Memorial by Shên Pao-chêng referring to a petition presented by a number of salt merchants, offering, in consideration of an increase in the number of *yin* or salt licenses at present issued for the Hwai-ngan area to contribute Tls. 40,000 to the famine fund. This offer was brought to the notice of His Majesty by the Censor Chang Kwan-chun (see *Gazette* of March 19th), and referred to memorialist with suggestions from other sources, for consideration. No application has been made at the Salt Comptroller's Yamên by the individuals who are so anxious to contribute, and there is every reason to suspect that they want these licenses only to sell again, and that the "charitable contributions" will be tacked on to the licenses when sold, and thus be subscribed by the ultimate purchasers. Be that as it may, it is unadvisable to increase the number of licenses at present issued, and though fully appreciative of the need for money and the value of the contributions offered, the memorialist feels sure that the acceptance of the terms would lead to bad results. If licenses are increased the area over which they are sold must be correspondingly extended, and as the Hwai-ngan area can only be increased at the expense of others, which have not yet recovered from the check received during times of rebellion, and have already more stock accumulated than purchasers can be found for, the result of such an increase of licenses may be likened to damming the outflow of a stream the source of which is unusually strong. —Rescript : Let the Board of Revenue take note.

August 3rd.—(1) A decree in answer to one of Hwang Ti-fang's periodical memorials on administrative reform, answering categorically a number of objections raised by him, and setting aside many of his suggestions as being useless or impracticable. The decree, which occupies three pages of the *Gazette*, is uninteresting from the fact that it is almost unintelligble until it can be read by the light of the memorial which called it forth.

(2) A decree granting permission to Pao Ying, Military Assistant Governor at K'obdo, to vacate his post on account of ill-health.

(3) Decree appointing Ts'ui Mu-che 崔穆之 to the post of Intendant of the Yo, Ch'ang, Fêng circuit in Hunan.

(4) The Court of Censors report the presentation of an appeal from one Yang K'i-siang, a native of Mao Chow in Szech'wan, by his servant Wang Yü-yuan, who states that one Tsêng Che-yuan owed his master Tls. 520, and in order to wipe off this debt made out a forged account against his old master which he insisted on Yang K'i-siang accepting as a set off against the obligation. Yang refused, and Tsêng then attacked him with the aid of a number of roughs he had called to his assistance, and cruelly beat him, taking away his hat and clothes. Yang fled to his house and his assailants followed him, but on their arrival before the door their entrance was opposed by Yang's mother, whereupon they pushed her down and trod upon her, inflicting injuries from which she subsequently died. The assault was reported to the Magistrate, but he had been bribed, and would not go into the case with any minuteness. Appeals to the Prefect, Taotai, Judge, and Governor-General having each failed in their turn, this petition was presented as a last resource.—Referred in the usual manner.

(5) A second memorial from the Court of Censors reporting the receipt of another

petition from Szech'wan presented by one Siang She-yin on behalf of the widow of Siang She-siung, a native of the Wan district. Siang She-yin, brother of the deceased, declared that his brother was carried off by a clansman to whom he owed money, and although his wife went to the clansman with the money that he owed in her hand she failed to obtain her husband's release. About a month after his abduction his body was discovered with the face much disfigured, eyes, nose, ears and tongue all bearing marks of violence. The Magistrate, to whom the matter was reported, held an inquest, but was bribed to enter a finding to the effect that the injuries to the face were caused by wild animals, and the witnesses brought forward by the complainants were subjected to torture. An attempt to bring the matter to the notice of the Governor-General having been frustrated, a petition was lodged at the Court of Censors.—Referred as usual.

August 4th.—(1) A decree in answer to a suggestion from the Supervising Censor Wang Tao-yuan that the statutes and regulations of the various Boards, which are daily becoming more numerous and complicated, shall be revised and embodied in one collection. It has been the practice hitherto to revise the statutes of the Boards once every ten years, and the heads of the various departments are hereby called upon, when the time of revision comes, to go carefully over the papers and documents connected with this subject, and select those that should be added to the new edition, making such alterations in the old regulations as may appear to them necessary after careful consideration. They will also emend any passages of doubtful meaning or construction.

(2) Decree appointing Ts'ing An 清安 to the post of Military Assistant Governor commanding at K'obdo with brevet rank as Deputy Lieutenant-General.

(3) Ting She-pin 丁士彬 is appointed Taotai of the Ch'wan Tung circuit in Szech'wan.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by memorials already summarised in the decrees that preceded them and applications for leave on behalf of officers on duty beyond the frontier.

August 5th.—(1) Kw'un Kang is appointed Deputy Lieutenant-General of the *han kün* division of the Bordered White Banner Corps.

(2) Fêng Shên, Military Governor of Hêh-lung-kiang, and T'o K'o-jui one of his deputies, give a long and uninteresting report, occupying twenty pages of the *Gazette*, of the evidence upon which a number of horse stealers, one of whom had manufactured a key that would open the gate of the town, had been convicted. A report of their capture had been sent to His Majesty, and permission was applied for to execute these criminals immediately, under the standing Imperial death warrant; but this was negatived by the Board of Punishments, who ruled that the memorialists must first clearly establish the guilt of each criminal, pass the legal sentence upon him, and submit the sentences so passed for their approval. In accordance with these instructions the prisoners were again brought up for trial, and the memorialists now recapitulate the evidence against each criminal, describing each act of robbery, even down to that of a pig, and then proceed to pass sentence individually in accordance with the total amount at which each man's thefts are valued. Thus, the chief offender who is tried on two counts, viz., horse stealing and manufacturing a private key to the gates of the town, would be sentenced on the latter count to banishment, but as the amount at which his thefts are valued amounts to over Tls. 120, the penalty for which is strangulation, the lesser charge is abandoned and he is sentenced to strangulation after the autumn assize. Others are sentenced to banishment to varying distances, with or without the accompaniment of 100 blows and tattooing on the check, as the case may be.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

No other documents of importance.

August 6th.—(1) A decree consenting to an application from Liu Ch'ang-yeo, Governor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow, that Chang Kiang-jun, Lieutenant-Colonel in command of the Chên Hung Brigade in Yünnan, who took upon himself to put to death two burglars detained in the military prison, and to liberate four others, may be cashiered and placed on his trial. He is also charged with extorting money on the pretext of raising funds for the organisation of a company of militia and with interfering in judicial matters.

(2) Decree appointing K'i-siu 啟秀 to the post of Assistant Supervisor, Supervisorate of Instruction.

(3) Liu Kin-t'ang is appointed a Commissioner of the Office of Transmission.

(4) The Court of Censors report that an appeal has been presented by one Lo Ch'u-siu, aged 58, a native of the Sin-hwa district in Hunan. He states that his nephew Lin-lin had gone with his wife to

live with his father-in-law, at the invitation of the latter, in the Shao-yang district, and that his nephew's wife there attracted the admiration and desire of Ho Lung-siang the nephew of a wealthy neighbour. He accordingly got some friends to try and persuade Chên Pi-yu, the father-in-law, to force Kin-lin to put away his wife, and in compliance with his persuasion Chên Pi-yu, aided by one Ho Lung-shêng, murdered petitioner's nephew. Bribery on the part of the guilty parties led to the usual results. The Magistrate refused to hold a personal inspection of the body, and his underlings were bribed to delay proceedings for a couple of years. Appeal was made to the Prefect, the two Commissioners, and the Governor, each in turn, but bribery had again been at work, and Kiu Lin's wife and her mother were concealed. A kinsman of petitioner's discovered their place of concealment, but was prevented from disclosing it by the guilty parties, who seized him and kept him bound in confinement until he died. Appeal to the provincial Judge having resulted in the matter being referred to the Magistrate, the latter was induced in consideration of a gratuity of 1,200 strings of *cash* to falsify the original documents connected with the case, and to make out that a man who had committed suicide was the actual murderer, certain damnatory admissions by a witness in the case having been suppressed altogether.—Referred in the usual manner.

(5) Also an appeal case reported by the Court of Censors. A woman called T'ien accuses Ho Lung-siang, the man who figures in the foregoing case, with having induced her husband to open a shop in partnership with him, and, a feud having arisen between them, with having invited her husband to his house and poisoned him with a cup of wine. Proceedings were instituted by the widow, but she was induced to remain quiet by the gift of a piece of land which Ho Lung-siang was persuaded to give her. In course of time, however, he came to her house with a number of men and ransacked it, conveying off her late husband's papers and every other document that could be found, as well as money and other articles. Appeals for justice were frustrated by bribery, and the widow's enemies at last brought a charge against her of complicity with brigands, in the hope that she would be put to death. Happily the charges were proved to be false and she was released, but her persecutors once more attacked her and charged her little boy with having killed his grandmother. Having failed to obtain redress after more than twenty separate applications in her own province and two in that of Hupeh, she had brought her case to Peking. —Referred.

(7) The Court of Censors also report the receipt of a petition from Hing She-ming, a Magistrate in Anhwei lately cashiered, which was presented by his son. The son on being questioned, after having given his age, place of birth, and status, referred memorialists for further information to his father's petition. It was to the effect that he had been Magistrate of the T'ung-ling and Ting-yuan districts successively for a great number of years, during which time he had been free from corruption and had ordered his conduct aright, so that he could not willingly submit to the disgrace that had now been brought upon him by the unfounded charge of incapacity which led to his dismissal.

The petitioner's son explained that his father had already appealed against his dismissal to the Governor of Anhwei, but had obtained no answer to his petition. (For decree see *Gazette* of 22nd July.)

August 7th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Yü Lu, Governor of Anhwei, reporting defalcations in the amounts of land tax due by certain district Magistrates, one of whom, already dismissed, owes as much as Tls. 17,000. This ex-magistrate is now to be imprisoned, and his family, as well as those of the other defaulters, are to be proceeded against for the amounts of their respective debts. The Governors of Kweichow, Hupeh, and Shantung, in which provinces the homes of these defaulters lie, are at once to sequester all property severally belonging to them.

(2) T'ien Haw-ch'e, Censor of the Fuh-k'ien circuit, represents that unless punitive ordinances be rigorously enforced, it will be imposible to secure thorough and effective organisation in the issue of famine relief. When memorialist had the honor to be received in audience a month ago, Their Majesties were graciously pleased to question him minutely and to instruct him as to the obligation he was under, in these troubled times, to address Their Majesties upon any subject on which it was right to speak, whenever occasion demanded. The awe and reverence with which memorialist received these injunctions as he knelt upon his knees, are difficult of expression. With these commands upon him, how can he venture to consult his own ease, and be silent upon matters that have come to his knowledge? While admitting that since the necessity for the distribution of relief

has arisen, there have not been wanting men of personal integrity who have brought their individual morality to bear upon their public work, he must at the same time confess that many of a very opposite disposition have been constantly to be met with The memorialist then proceeds to enumerate by name a number of officials in Shênsi, Shansi, and Chihli, whom he charges with dishonesty and fraud in the management of the funds at their disposal. In conclusion he suggests that the proper Board be instructed to determine a code of heavy penalties that shall be inflicted on officials found guilty of appropriation of famine funds. (For decree see *Gazette* of 22nd July).

(3) Wên Koh, Governor of Shantung, reports the arrival of Tséng Chang-chê, who has been selected for the post of Magistrate of the Ling district. He was duly provided with credentials from the Board, and when he presented himself memorialist inspected him with attention, and considers from the observations he was able to make that Tséng Chang is a man of intelligence and perspicacity, and not embued with any obnoxious habits or principles. As, however, he has only just arrived, and has still to make himself *au courant* with administrative work, memorialist has decided to send him temporarily to the *nieh kü*, or judicial arrear office, where he will gain some experience in assisting at investigations. As soon as the accumulations of arrears begin to be cleared off, he shall be sent to his proper post.

August 8th.—(1) Memorial by K'o Sing-ah, Superintendent of Live-stock and House Duty for the eastern division of Peking, reporting the amount of duty collected by him at the expiration of one year of office. The amount of *Chêng Ngo* or fixed returns at which his division is assessed, is Tls. 1,000.8 live-stock duty, and Tls. 3.390 house duty, to which a supplementary assessment of Tls. 18,000 was subsequently added. The amount of duties collected by memorialist is, altogether, Tls. 17,860, leaving a balance of Tls. 7,852 after deducting the amount of the regular assessment. This balance has further to be reduced by Tls. 6,145, expended in purchase of fodder for sacrificial animals printing, stationery, salary of clerks, runners, etc., so that the supplementary collection amounts in reality to only Tls. 1,707, or Tls. 16,212 short of the proper amount. Memorialist offers the following explanation of the cause of the deficit. The greater portion of the duty collected in the eastern division is derived from pigs and horses. The scarcity of money and high prices of corn that has latterly prevailed in Peking in consequence of the want of rain, have caused a great falling off in sales of live-stock, the buyers, on the one hand, being deterred from purchase by the necessity of providing fodder, and sellers, on the other, being discouraged from bringing their stock to Peking in consequence of the enormous difference between rates of exchange there and elsewhere. The duty on horses, which was never very much, has been further reduced by a recent enactment emanating from the Board of War, prohibiting the sale of horses in Peking itself. (See *Gazette* of 22nd July.)

(2) Liu Kw'un-yi, Governor of the Two Kwang, applies for a month's leave of absence on the ground of ill-health. During his military life in Kwangsi, some years ago, the memorialist's constitution was invaded by damp, and rheumatic pains took hold of his muscles and bones, and have got so thoroughly into the system that after years of medical treatment he suffers periodically from their attacks. The damp climate of Kwangtung, situated as it is upon the sea coast, is particularly unfavourable to his complaint, and ever since he has resided in the province he has suffered a relapse as spring and summer arrived. The present season has been a particularly wet and hot one, and memorialist's pains have attacked him with renewed force, rendering him at times quite giddy and causing a sickness at the stomach. The symptons have increased so much of late, and have been so aggravated by repeated spitting of blood and palpitation of the heart, that the memorialist's medical adviser urges on him the necessity of absolute rest and quiet. He accordingly solicits the bestowal of one month's congé. —Granted by rescript.

August 9th.—(1) Mu Lung-ah, Superintendent of Live-stock and House Duty for the Western division of Peking, submits a return of receipts and expenditures for his first year of office. His division is rated at Tls. 10,005 *chêng ngo*, or fixed amount, and Tls. 7,321, supplementary assessment, making a total of Tls. 17,326. The amount collected was Tls. 19,334, but deductions for office expenses, purchase of sacrificial animals, fodder for the same, etc., etc., reduced his supplementary balance to Tls. 6,000 short of the proper amount.

(2) Ho King, Governor-General of Minchê, reports that he has resumed charge of

his duties at the expiration of his leave. He was still feeling far from well, and it was his intention to apply for an extension of leave, but he felt that in the present condition of the province it would not be right for him to do so. The two floods from which Fuhk'ien has suffered, have caused considerable distress, and much thought and planning has to be exercised to provide funds for the purchase of food for the people. At the time of the summer solstice, high tides and freshets are very frequent [in the Min], and on the 27th and 28th June last there was a sudden rush of water from the hills above the city, which, when met and checked by the incoming tide, caused an abrupt rise of over 30 feet in that portion of the river known as Shui K'ow. Fortunately the Wu Lung Kiang and other outlets for the surplus water had been looked to, and there being no obstruction to its outflow the accumulation of water in the main river had no disastrous results, and gradually subsided. Information has not yet been received as to the condition of the districts higher up the stream, but reports have arrived from Kin-kiang Hien in the K'üan-chow prefecture to the effect that the storied building over the gate of the town had been destroyed on the night of the 23rd June by a sudden heavy storm of wind and rain, and had crushed a number of officers and soldiers in its fall. Many houses in the town were also blown down or damaged, but no injuries were received. The price of grain still continues high, and the "committee of reorganisation" have been directed to instruct the Prefect and Magistrate to open agencies inside and outside the city for the sale of grain at reduced rates. With so much distress prevailing, the memorialist would not venture to consult his own ease and convenience, and has therefore cancelled his leave, regardless of the effort he is obliged to make.

(3) The Court of Censors report that an appeal has been presented by a native of the Lang-chung district in Szech'wan, complaining that his father, having offended some disreputable notables by his refusal to sell them a piece of land, had been falsely represented by them to the Magistrate as a man of substance and wealth who had made the collection of charitable contributions a pretext for squeezing and extortion. His father was arrested and not allowed to go till he had paid money to his persecutors, and since his release nothing has been heard of him. Petitioner's mother was also victimised by these reprobate individuals, and so worried by them that she hanged herself.

(5) Memorial by T'uh Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, paying a tribute of respect to the philanthropy and public spirit of the officials, gentry, and merchants of Shanghai, who have responded most liberally to an appeal from him for aid, although they have had similar calls from Fohkien and Shansi. The contribution agency at Shanghai has already sent him Tls. 30,000, and he has received numerous letters from the gentry and officials of the place, promising to do all in their power to encourage subscriptions and prophecying an uninterrupted supply. A list of subscribers will be made out, when the contributions are discontinued, but in the meantime the memorialist begs to report the establishment of contribution agencies in Shanghai and to commend the charity and public spirit of the residents.—Rescript: Noted.

August 10th.—(Memorials issued for publication.) Li Han-chang reports that the province of Hupeh is overcrowded with expectants of office, and requests that no more may be sent forward for the present.

(1) The Governor-General of Min-chêh and the Governor of Fuhkien report the decease of Sung Kwoh-yung, officer in command of the Kien-ch'ing brigade at Foochow, whose name is recorded for appointment to the post of provincial Commander-in-chief. The memorialists give a sketch of the deceased officer's military career, which appears to have been an exceptionally brilliant one. He had been engaged in considerably more than a hundred actions, in all of which he made himself conspicuous by his gallantry and energy, and had been honorably mentioned on numerous occasions, obtaining successive promotions until he attained the rank he last held, and was invested with the peacock's feather, the yellow riding jacket, and the title of *Bat'uru*. T'ang Ting-kwei, who had been applied for by memorialist, Ho King, as provincial Commander-in-chief, not being able to come at once to his post, the deceased officer was sent by Shên Pao-chêng in August last and placed in charge of the Kien and Ts'ing brigades, taking up his quarters outside the southern gate of the city. During the troubled times that succeeded to the two floods with which the city and province were visited, Sung Kwoh-yung was most active and vigilant in the discharge of the police duties that fell to his share, himself superintending the drilling of his men, and exercising an untiring superintendence day and night over the patrols and guards, and succeeding through his vigilance in capturing many members of the *Koh Lao* affiliated society, who were summarily dealt

with after their membership had been clearly established. He was present with his men at every fire that occurred, and memorialists are sorely afraid that the exertion he underwent in Foochow acted upon a constitution already impaired by a life of hardship and toil, and caused a return of certain constitutional maladies, which were aggravated by his neglect to allow himself any rest. He died on the 16th June, at the comparatively early age of fifty-eight, leaving behind him one son, a lad of tender years, who is very scantily provided for. The memorialists suggest the bestowal upon Sung Kwoh-yung of the highest honors allotted to an officer who has died on duty after an illustrious career. —Granted by Rescript.

(2) T'uh Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, requests that the system now in force at the various contribution agencies for his province may be so modified as to be placed on the same footing as the Shansi contribution offices. It has hitherto been the rule for the Governors of the provinces in which these agencies are established to notify the Governor of Honan periodically of the amounts subscribed, and he in his turn applies to His Majesty for the honorary rewards to which each subscriber is entitled. This is the same system that was pursued for Yünnan, but a modification of these arrangements has been adopted by the Shansi offices, which have lowered their rates, and it follows that subscribers patronize the latter in preference to the former, to the great detriment of the Honan funds. Memorialist therefore begs permission to place his agencies on the same footing as the Shansi ones, and, as the value of honorary distributions as a stimulous to contributors consists entirely in the promptitude with which they are applied for, he would suggest that Governors-General and Governors be directed for the future to apply direct for honorary distributions for contributors instead of the application being made through the Governor of the particular province into whose agency the money was paid.

(3) The same officer forwards a list of provincial officials who have contributed out of their "anti-extortion allowances" to the famine fund. The total amount thus received was Tls. 29,000, and although the contributors deprecated any application to His Majesty for the bestowal of honorary rewards, the memorialist dare not withhold the information from His Majesty, who regards all good actions, none of which are too small for His notice. Rescript: Let application for the bestowal of honorary rewards on these officers be made in the usual manner.

August 11th.—(1) A decree ordering the dismissal of the police master in charge of the jail at A-mi Chow in Yünnan, who is to be placed on his trial for having allowed the escape of certain criminals entrusted to his charge. The Governor of the Province is to satisfy himself as to whether or no their escape was connived at by the said police master or the watchmen under him, and to pass sentence upon them accordingly. The department Magistrate of A-mi Chow is to be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty, and a limited time is to be given for the recapture of the criminals that have escaped.

(2) Postscript memorial by Ch'ung How, reporting the amounts that have been received at the contribution offices in Fêng-t'ien established at the request of the Governor of Shansi. From the date of their establishment until now, 35,000 piculs of grain, granary weight, have been received, and Tls. 10,700, all of which, both grain and money, have been forwarded at different times to Li Hung-chang for transmission to Shansi. Buttons and medals have been bestowed upon the contributors in proportion to the amount of their subscriptions, and in the case of those wishing to purchase office the Governor-General Li Hung-chang has been advised of the fact and has issued the necessary certificates to the applicants, this being the more expeditious plan. In conclusion the memorialist solicits the bestowal of honorary rewards upon the officers who have been engaged in the collection of these contributions.—Granted by Rescript.

(3) The same officer reports the establishment of similar contribution offices for Honan, at which over Tls. 30,000 have been received. A contribution of Tls. 2,000 has also been offered by a young military student, Wang Kün-chên by name, in commutation of the penalty of banishment under which his father is suffering in consequence of an accident he had while grinding some gunpowder, whereby some people were killed and others injured. The man has subscribed more than Tls. 500 to a temple after the accident had occurred, thereby obtaining the infliction of the mitigated sentence of banishment, and as his offence is one that is not beyond the reach of pardon, while the amount now offered is double that of the commutation fee charged in the case of graduates by favour or purchase under sentence of banishment, memorialist feels disposed to accept the offer if His Majesty will be

pleased to consent.—Referred by Rescript to the proper Board.

August 12th.—(1) Memorial by Ming An, Military Governor of Kirin, with reference to an appeal case in which one Wang King-tien complained that his brother Wang Kin-shun had been killed in an altercation, and objecting to the finding that he had committed suicide by hanging. In answer to Wang King-t'ien's first appeal, the matter was referred to the Governor of Heh-lung Kiang, in whose jurisdiction the parties were, and a second inquest produced the same verdict. Wang Kin-shun appealed a second time, and on referring the case once more to Heh-lung Kiang a special corpse examiner was sent from Moukden to secure a proper examination of the corpse. Proceedings were, however, brought to a standstill by the refusal of the relatives to assent to the steaming process for testing the accuracy of the appellant's statements as to the injuries that the deceased had received. The matter was reported to the Throne, and instructions were requested (see *Gazette* of 20th March), whereupon Wang King-t'ien once more appealed, repeating his former charges and requesting that the case might be taken to Kirin and heard by the Military Governor of that province, whose decision he felt sure would be an impartial one. Instructions were accordingly issued in this sense to the Governor of Kirin, and the parties to the suit, the coffin, and the papers connected with the case, arrived at Kirin on the 22nd June, minus one Kiang Ngên, a village headman, who had run away on the road. The memorialist did not think it advisable to delay the hearing of this important case until the man had been captured, so he had the parties up before him and examined them for several days in succession. Complainant and defendant, however, both adhered to their own version of the story. It appears that in front of the house of Wang Kin-shun, the deceased, was a plot of waste land which he had taken out a permit to bring under cultivation. When, in 1872, the waste land in that province which had been redeemed was being surveyed with a view to taxation, Wang Kin-shun did not speak the truth about his land, and the consequence was that he was beaten by the Surveying Officer, and the land about which the untruths had been told was assigned to another man called Ts'ui Chên-fu. Wang Kin-shun objected to this, and a quarrel ensued between the two. On the evening of the following day one of Ts'ui Chên-fu's labourers, who was looking for something connected with his work, saw a man hanging to a beam in an empty room, and on entering to see who it was he recognised Wang Kin-shun, who he found was already dead. He called the village headman (he who had escaped), and word was sent to the relatives of the deceased, who reported the matter to the authorities and an inquest was held at which the corpse examiner declared that the deceased had met his death by hanging himself. The verdict was accepted by the relatives of the deceased and the usual document was given by them, but they subsequently appealed to Peking and declared that the labourer had stated that the deceased had been kicked to death by Ts'ui Chên-fu, but that he had afterwards been bribed for fifty strings of *cash* to declare falsely that he had committed suicide by hanging. On consideration of this case, it seemed to memorialist that the labourer was the most important witness, and that beyond his testimony there was no substantial proof forthcoming on either side. He accordingly examined him with great care, but he persistently declared that he had never made the statements imputed to him and that no assault had been committed. This, then, being the only substantial evidence, and all the parties expressing their willingness to stand or fall by an examination of the corpse by the *pai-kiang* process, which the complainants declared would reveal the existence of bruises on the stomach, it was decided to inspect the body, and the coffin was opened in the presence of memorialist and his subordinates by a corpse examiner, specially selected, who proceeded to apply the *pai-kiang* test. He reported that there were no marks on the throat to indicate strangulation, nor were there any bruises on the stomach as predicted by complainants, but that there was a wound upon the sinciput five inches long by an inch broad that had been inflicted by a wooden instrument, injuring the bone and causing extravasation of blood, whereby a dull red hue was given to the skin. He pronounced that the wound had been inflicted before death, and had, in fact, been the cause thereof. Memorialist himself inspected the corpse, but it was so dried up that he could not detect the wound reported by the corpse examiner, so he sent for another professional examiner who gave it as his opinion that this particular wound was not apparent, and that the marks on the neck had become obliterated, declaring, in short, that no wound on the head had been inflicted. In commenting on these conflicting opinions, memorialist remarks that it seems strange

that the extravasation reported by the first of the two corpse examiners should not have been apparent at previous examinations of the body, and points out as a significant fact that the wound on the stomach, which the appellants predicted would be found, was not to be discovered, while it should be borne in mind that the coffin had been deposited for some time in the garden of the relatives of deceased, and had, according to the statement at an earlier inquest, been tampered with and the clothing changed. Again, while one examiner declared the wound on the head to have been inflicted during lifetime, another stated, quite as positively, that the extravasation of blood was not apparent. Hence there is considerable difficulty in establishing proof either of the fact that the wound was inflicted during lifetime, or that the body was mutilated after death. The original examiners again declare that no such wound existed on the two previous occasions upon which the body was examined, and court enquiry on the subject. Under these circumstances, memorialist is convinced that nothing short of the application of the steaming test will set all doubts at rest, and in view of the gravity of the issue at stake, begs to request His Majesty's sanction to the application of this process, to which he has obtained the written consent of the various parties interested. Rescript: It is noted.

(2) The Governor of Honan requests the extension of the period for which permission had been obtained to appropriate the proceeds of the Yünman agencies for the sale of office and titles established in Honan. The Governor of the former province had objected to the appropriation of these funds at the conclusion of the six months during which the appropriation was permitted, but money is so urgently needed in Honan that memorialist is compelled to solicit the monopoly for six months more.—Granted by Rescript.

August 13th.—(1) (Memorials issued for publication.) Ting Pao-chêng requests permission to cashier a petty military officer guilty of stealing medals and selling them.

(2) Li Hung-chang reports the trial of a case of murder, and the summary execution of the sentence past. The following are the facts of the case:—Sun Liu was a native of Ki-chow, and lived in the same village as one Chao Ts'üan-pi and his wife. Chao Ts'üan-pi worked at a place some little distance off and rented seven *mow* of land belonging to him to Sun Liu, who farmed it in partnership with a kinsman. In July, 1877, Sun Liu went to the place at which Chao Ts'üan-pi was employed to seek for work but was unsuccessful, and Chao asked him to take back Tls. 3 to his wife as he was going home. Sun promised to do so, but appropriated the money, being in difficulties at the time, telling Chao's wife that he had done so, and obtaining an additional loan from her on the security of three *mow* of land he possessed, which he mortgaged to her. Three months afterwards the woman Chao foreclosed, and in addition to the three *mow* took over those he had rented and farmed them herself, turning a deaf ear to Sun's entreaties for mercy. Enraged at the loss of his land and his means of subsistence through the parsimony and greed of the woman Chao, he determined to kill both her and her children, and to this end purchased at the stall of a huckster in a neighbouring village some arsenic and red sugar, which he took home with him and concealed until an opportunity presented itself for committing the deed, refraining from mentioning his intentions to his wife and daughters. A few days afterwards they went out to gather firewood, and Sun then took the arsenic and red sugar and made them into sugar-plums with a little flour. When they were finished, he took them to the woman Chao's house and offered them to her and her children saying that he had bought them. She accepted the comfits and eat them with her two children, and Sun then went away outside the village to await the result of his crime. The poison took effect in due course, and all three died. Late the same night Sun came back to see the effect of his handiwork, and when he found that mother and children were dead, he possessed himself of what clothing and other articles he could find. It then occurred to him that his guilt would be detected, and he determined to set fire to the house in order to obliterate all trace of his crime by the destruction of the bodies. He did so and decamped, but unfortunately the fire was partial, and only a portion of one of the bodies was burnt. Detection soon followed, and the murderer having made a full confession of his guilt nothing remained but to pass sentence upon him. Murder of three persons in one family is punishable by law with *ling ch'e*, and banishment of the murderer's wife and daughters. In accordance with this law Sun Liu has been summarily executed by the *ling ch'e* process under the standing Imperial warrant, and his head sent for exposure at the scene of the crime. His wife and youngest daughter will be banished to the nearest limit, and the elder daughter, aged fifteen, being

betrothed, will be sent to the home of her future husband. Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.

(3) The same officer, in a postscript memorial, requests that he may retain Chên Ts'ao-ju, prefect awaiting selection, latterly employed in the Yamên of the Superintendent of Customs, who was summoned to Peking for presentation in February last, and received in audience on one occasion, when he was directed to return to Kiangsu to do duty. This officer from his integrity, intelligence, and thorough acquaintance with foreign matters, would be of considerable assistance at Tientsin, which is a great centre of foreign trade, and the consequent monetary exchange business as well as a port of great importance. Now that Shên Pao-chêng has filled the post of Superintendent of the Arsenal at Shanghai, there is no special work for him in Kiangsu.—Sanctioned by Rescript.

(4) The same officer reports that the cavalry force attached to the brigade known as the *Hwai Kün* and "*Hai Fang*" respectively, having now been provided with weapons loading at the breech, it has become necessary to supply them with sturdy horses in order to enable them to become proficient in the exercises they should practise. Officers have accordingly been sent to Lama Miao, Kalgan, etc., to purchase altogether 1,100 horses for the forces in question. The fact of their departure has been notified to the Board of War and the Governor of Ch'ahar, and the officials along the line of route have been directed to provide fodder for the animals on their way down. It now becomes the duty of memorialist to pray His Majesty to sanction the exemption of these horses from taxation at Kalgan, and with this object in view, to order the proper Board to grant him a certificate, and send the necessary instructions to the Superintendent of Customs at Kalgan.—Granted by Rescript.

August 14th.—(Court Circular.) Ch'ung How paid his respects on arrival at Peking, as did also Ying Lien, late Military Assistant-Governor at Tarbagatai. They were both received in audience.

(1) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a list of persons, twenty-five in number, who are stated by Wu T'ing-fên, Reader of the Grand Secretariat, to have lost their lives in Anhwei during the rebel invasion in the reign of Hien Fêng, either in offering active resistance to the foe, or falling victims to the vituperations they heaped upon him. The Reader being a native of Anhwei with special facilities for accurate observation, his list is accepted and the usual marks of Imperial compassion are to be severally bestowed upon the persons therein enumerated.

(2) A decree ordering the Board of Civil Office to take into consideration a proposal of the officer mentioned above, for a modification of the existing rules by which precedence and length of service amongst those employed in the various Boards are regulated.

(Memorials issued for publication.) K'i Yuan reports having taken charge of the duties of Military Governor of Shên-king.

(3) Joint memorial by Shên Pao-chêng, Wên Pin, and the Governor of Kiangsu recommending Pi Shu-ch'ang, Taotai with brevet rank of Financial Commissioner, for the post of Intendant of the Soo-chow prefecture with the control of the military forces under his jurisdiction and the superintendence of river works, which has been recently vacated by the late incumbent in consequence of his mother's death. The residence of the Intendant of this circuit is at Soo-chow, the most important centre in the northern portion of the province, and as this appointment requires the exercise of several important and distinct functions a capable officer is needed to fill it. After a careful and thorough consideration of the capabilities of the various Taotais throughout the province, memorialists have hit upon Ki Shu-ch'ang as the most eligible, and beg to submit his name to His Majesty. He is a native of Honan, sixty-three years of age, and a metropolitan graduate. From Reader of the Hanlin he was appointed Censor, and subsequently promoted to be a supervising Censor, when he purchased exemption from serving the usual twelve months in this capacity. He was then presented to His Majesty, and his name was placed on the list of Taotais to important posts, and at the close of the same year (1861) he was *Gazetted* Prefect of Ch'ang-chow in Kiangsu. At the end of two years a peacock's feather was bestowed upon him, and His Majesty was pleased to direct that he should be given a Taotaiship when a vacancy occurred. He was then made Acting Grain Intendant of the Soochow and Sungkiang prefectures, and in 1864 was transferred as Prefect to Soochow. In 1865 he went in mourning for his mother, and during his period of mourning occupied himself with the raising of contributions for a certain purpose, and for his energy and exertions in this matter was given the brevet rank of Financial Commissioner. He reported himself for duty in 1867, and in 1869 was

made Acting Grain Intendant of the Kiang-an area, and having gone to T'ung-chow with tribute grain in 1868, was presented to His Majesty. In 1876 he acted as Judge of Kiangsu, and filled the same office this year. Should His Majesty sanction his appointment to the post to which he is recommended, Pi Shu-ch'ang will of course be on probation for a year before confirmation of the appointment is solicited. —Referred to the proper Board.

(4) Li P'ei-king, Governor of Kweichow, requests a token of Imperial favour for an old lady one hundred years of age, the mother of a Lieutenant in one of the garrisons in Kweichow, who has two sons, two grandsons, and a great grandson all living with her. The fact of this old lady having attained the age of a hundred years and having three generations living with her under the same roof, is an auspicious augury for the prosperity of the Empire, and the memorialist therefore solicits the bestowal of a mark of Imperial approbation upon her.—Rescript: Let the Board of Ceremonies take note.

August 15th.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with a tedious and uninteresting memorial by Chang P'ei-lun on the facilities that should be afforded to Censors for speaking their mind on matters affecting the common weal, the necessity of vesting the control of Customs' matters in other than those officers specially appointed from Peking (referred to in an earlier decree), and delays in judicial investigations.

August 16th.—(1 & 2) Decrees absolving Mu Lung-ah and K'o Sing-ah, Superintendents of live-stock and house duty for the eastern and western divisions respectively, from the penalties they have incurred by short delivery of the supplementary amounts at which their divisions were severally assessed. The portion of these amounts that they have collected are to be paid over to the Treasury of the Privy Purse.

(3) Ch'ung Sün 崇勳 is appointed Commissioner of the Office of Transmission.

(4) T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shênsi, solicits permission for Kiang Ning-hio, Financial Commissioner, to vacate his post. This officer received letters from his native place some time ago informing him that a heavy fall of rain at his home had caused a sudden rush of *shan shui* or mountain torrents caused by rain, which had swept over the graves of his father and mother, carried away the headstones, and left the coffins bare. Heart-broken as the Commissioner was at the receipt of this intelligence, he felt that the distressed condition of the province and the measures of relief that were in active operation, would not permit of his absenting himself for the purpose of giving proper burial to his parents' remains, so he determined to stay on until matters were in a more satisfactory state. Autumn has now arrived, relief is at an end, and a good harvest is confidently predicted, so the Commissioner, who has been tortured day and night with the thought of the condition of his parents' remains, and has reduced his food [in self humiliation], earnestly begs that he may be allowed to vacate his post and return to his native place. The Commissioner has held his present post for three years, and has performed his duties with diligence and ability, rendering memorialist much valuable assistance, but the news he received from home in the early spring has weighed heavily upon his mind, and this, combined with want of sleep and scanty food, has so affected his general looks and *esprit* that memorialist thinks it would no longer be wise to keep him against his will. (For decree see *Gazette* of July 31st.)

(5) Li Hung-chang requests that Chow Hêng-k'i, newly appointed Financial Commissioner of Chihli, who reached Tientsin on the 26th July, may be temporarily absolved from the necessity of presenting himself at Court, and may be ordered to proceed direct to Pao-ting Fu, where his presence is urgently required. Memorialist having to reside in Tientsin and Sun Kwan, the Acting Commissioner being in failing health, the presence of the actual Incumbent is most desirable at a time like the present when there is so much distress, and relief work is still going on, fettered by an impoverished treasury very slightly replenished by this year's land tax.—Granted by Rescript.

(6) A similar application is made in the case of Ting Show-ch'ang, recently appointed Judge of Chihli, who had obtained permission to present himself at Peking. As in the above case, the application is sanctioned.

(7) Wên Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transport, applies for the reinstatement of one Lu Ch'ung, an expectant Taotai and sub-prefect in charge of River works, who was denounced by Shên Pao-chêng as a man of indifferent character and reputation, and dismissed in consequence. With no wish to interfere with the Governor-General's disposal of the officers under him, or to express views and opinions that are not in accordance with those of his colleague,

the memorialist feels bound to make this application, as the officer in question is one of the very few who have had a long experience of river engineering work in which experience is so eminently required. Lu Ch'ung has been employed in this work for over twenty years, and is one of the few experienced hands that memorialist has. He has shown himself to be a bold, energetic and economical officer, and it would be difficult to find many equal to him amongst those employed on River works. (See *Gazette* of 31st July.)

August 17th.—(1) A decree. Mei K'i-chao reports that in the month of June last, *kiao*, or dragons of thickets and morasses, * were produced amongst the hills in the prefectures of Kin-hwa, K'ü-chow, and Yên-chow, which were visited simultaneously by heavy rains, the floods resulting from which caused destruction to life and property. On receipt of this intelligence he had given orders that steps should be taken to rescue the people from their plight, and had ordered corn to be supplied from the public granaries to the sufferers at reduced rates, as well as gratuities of money and rice. The weather has now cleared and the waters have subsided, so a satisfied and quiet tone again prevails. It is most essential that the land in these prefectures from which the crops have been washed away should be immediately sown again in time for the autumn crop. Let Mei K'i-chao take the necessary steps to this end and afford comfort and consolation to the stricken population.

(2) Memorial by Hwang T'i-fang on the subject of the obnoxious custom that prevails of offering presents to the higher provincial officials, which he maintains is a serious evil and most detrimental to good Government. The subject has frequently been brought to the notice of His Majesty of late by those whose duty it is to speak on general matters affecting State interests, and orders have in consequence been issued for the absolute abolition of all obnoxious customs of the kind. These "customs" are not confined to one kind, but the most pernicious are those that are accepted by higher officers from their subordinates. These are known under various names, such as *kieh shone*, or presents offered at the three great festivals and on birthdays; *tao jen li*, or congratulatory offerings upon arrival at a new post; *ki kwei*, or season fees; *sin shin*, or wages, and so forth. Years ago it used to be very much the practice of Governors General and Governors both to give and receive these presents, but of late the practice has not been so frequent as far as they are concerned; but Commissioners, Financial and Judicial, depend without exception upon these presents for their incomes, and the lower class of officials trade upon the practice, their advancement being dependent upon the magnitude of their offerings. The result is that favour and protection is purchased by this means, complaints against subordinates are never entertained, and corrupt officials are not removed. With the direction of all official movements in the hands of the Financial Commissioner, and the infliction of punishments and the power of life and death in those of the judge, what must be the condition of administration and what the security to life, when they accept the presents of those beneath them? This state of things is general throughout the provinces, and is not confined to Honan alone, the particular province selected for attack by some. The subject has been the theme of many a censor, and has been exposed by more than one subordinate, and yet memorialist has never heard of one single Governor-General or Governor having made this practice a cause of dismissal of any subordinate. If no such practice exist, then all the censors, who have exposed it are guilty of falsehood and misrepresentation, and if it does exist, can the provincial high authorities be said to be all deaf or blind? Since the Empire has been involved in military operations, "extortion allowances" have been reduced and salaries have been cut down, under the most favourable circumstances to one-half, and in some cases to a fifth or even a tenth of the authorised amount, with the result that they do not suffice to meet expenditure on public account. Memorialist would ask how many men are now to be found with the honesty and purity of Poh Yi or Yuan Tsŭ? So it comes to pass that the higher authorities allow matters to take their course, and these evil habits are

[*Note.—蛟 *Kiao*. For a description of this fabulous animal see Williams' Dictionary, page 367. It is described in K'ang Hi as "allied to the Dragon tribe. The *Lung* or Dragon is the King of the 3,600 fishes, and the *Kiao* is something smaller than a *Lung*. It is like a snake, but has four feet. The neck is thinner than the body, and is covered with a light coloured pinge or mane. Its length is more than the outstretched arms of several men. Its eggs are larger than a wine jar that will hold several piculs, and it is given to swallowing human beings."]

transmitted from one generation to another. Neither covert nor open, neither officially recognised nor accepted by stealth, the existence of this system is denied by those who have the right to address His Majesty, and yet the amounts received by each official are the subject of open comment and comparison. Officials, while serving in Peking mercilessly condemn the practice, but directly they take office themselves in the provinces they are just as bad as those they abuse. (See decree of 2nd August.)

August 18th.—(1) A Decree. Tso Tsung-t'ang reports the results of his efforts to put a stop to the cultivation of the poppy in Kansuh, and requests the infliction of penalties upon those officers who have shown carelessness and want of energy in the enforcement of the prohibition, and the bestowal of rewards upon those who, on the contrary, have been energetic in carrying it out. The cultivation of the poppy is injurious to the food supply of the people, and is prohibited by strict enactments. Tso Tsung-t'ang has now endeavoured with some success by the aid of the Commissioners and Intendants under him, to urge the enforcement of this prohibition, and they have shown creditable zeal and earnestness in the matter. Exception is to be made in the case of Li Tsung-pin, Prefect of Ning-hia, already cashiered on a separate charge, who will be dealt with for his want of energy in this matter when punishment is inflicted for the former offence; of Hu Yün-lan, Magistrate of the Ning-hia district, whose appointment to that post is hereby cancelled; and of several other Sub-Prefects and Magistrates, who will be severally dealt with in proportion to their want of attention to this matter. Yü Kwang-jung, Sub-Prefect of Ning-ling T'ing, and several others, will, on the other hand, be severally rewarded for the diligence and energy they have displayed.

(2) Postscript memorial by the Supervising Censor Hia Sien-ts'ing, pointing out certain objections to the employment of Sub-Prefects and assistant Sub-Prefects on probation as acting department or district Magistrates, and requesting that a rule may be promulgated forbidding the practice in future.

(3) Mei K'i-chao reports the arrival of Jên Tao-jung, Financial Commissioner, at Hangchow, and the resumption of their ordinary duties by the Judge and other officers who have been temporarily discharging higher functions.

(4) Postcript memorial by Wang Kia-pi, Literary Chancellor of Manchuria, suggesting certain modifications in the regulations under which literary degrees are granted. At a recent examination at Kirin, over 150 ordinary candidates presented themselves, while not not a single Manchu or Mongol youth came forward to compete for the distinctions that are specially reserved for this class. In a somewhat lengthy and complicated memorial he dwells upon the advantages and civilising power of education over a gradually increasing population, amongst whom there is a large admixture of lawlessness and rowdyism, and quotes the well-known saying that "If in every household there was only one member able to read, through that one member the words of sacred truth might be brought to the ears of the whole family; if one hamlet contained but a single individual able to read, the whole hamlet might through him hear the sacred words of truth and be gradually brought to a perception of the grand principles of life." These once understood and appreciated, acts of impropriety and crime generally would decrease. Memorialist would, then, bring education within the reach of as many as possible, and stimulate it by the bestowal of rewards, and as the degrees allotted to Manchus are not availed of, he would once more beg permission, although the Board have already vetoed the plan, so to modify the existing rule as to be at liberty to give these degrees to ordinary candidates, under certain conditions, in the event of no Manchus presenting themselves for examination.—Referred to the Board of Ceremonies.

August 19th.—A decree directing Wên Yi and Wêng T'ung-ho to hold a joint investigation with the officers of the Board of Punishments into the circumstances of the death of a criminal under punishment, as reported by the Board.

(2) Memorial by the Supervising Censor Wang Tao-yuan on the subject of revision of the statutes and regulations of the Boards. (See *Gazette* of 4th August.)

(3) Ho King and the acting-Governor of Fuhkien report the arrival of a junk containing thirty-two distressed Liu-ch'iuans forwarded from the province of Chêhkiang. On being examined through an interpreter, they stated that they had sailed from Napa, in Liu-ch'iu, to convey a small official, the spokesman of the party, to Pa-chung-shan, where his official duties lay, and that on their way thither they had been blown out to sea by a storm and had drifted to Ting-hai on the Chêhkiang coast, where they were rescued by a Government cruiser. They declared that their junk was still seaworthy,

and that as they were well acquainted with the Fuhkien coast there was no necessity for them to go in any other vessel. They were accordingly supplied with a month's provisions and the usual presents, and left for their own country on the 22nd June, taking with them three Liu-ch'iuan servants belonging to a tribute mission, who had returned last year to Foochow.

(4) The same officer requests permission for the newly appointed Judge, Lu Shekieh, to be temporarily absolved from going to Peking to have audience of His Majesty. In conformity with the decrees on judicial reform and the clearing off of arrears, called forth by the visitations of famine in the North, memorialist has caused a special court to be established for the latter purpose, and were the Judge to absent himself now that it has just been brought into working order, much delay and inconvenience would be caused. Special care shall be taken, in conformity with His Majesty's decree, that witnesses and innocent persons shall not suffer the pains of captivity during the fierce heat of summer, longer than is absolutely necessary.—Granted by Rescript.

(5) Postscript memorial by the same officer reporting that two foreigners had been wrecked in September last upon an island to the north of Formosa, and their boat smashed into atoms, not a plank of her having been left. The residents on the island came to their rescue, and they remained there for several months until favourable winds set in and they were sent to Keeloong, where they were mistaken for Liu-ch'iuans, as no one understood their language, and forwarded by steamer to Foochow. They were there housed, as usual, in the *Jow Yuan Yi*, or refuge for distressed foreigners, and the Liu-ch'iuan interpreter was sent for to interrogate them. He found, however, that they were not Liu-ch'iuans, and that he could not understand a word they said. Eventually, a pencil and paper were put into their hands, and one of them managed to form the four characters *Ch'ao Hien Kwoh Jên*, "a native of Corea." Their nationality being thus ascertained, they were sent to the Shanghai Taotai to be passed on by him to Tientsin for transmission to Peking. The memorialist has made use of the steamer route to convey these men, as being more expeditious than the overland journey.

August 20th.—(1) A decree permitting Liu Ping-chang, Governor of Kiangsi, to vacate his post for the purpose of ministering to his parents.

(2) Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szech'wan, reports the trial of one Shên Kwoh-ngên, an hereditary *Yün-k'i-yü*, employed under the Commander-in-chief, who had stolen some silks that were going to be sent to Peking for use in the palace. The Office of the Imperial Household having sent an order last year to memorialist for some high quality silk and satin for Imperial use, he had directed one Wang Lien-hien to attend to the execution of the order, and he had already procured the silks and packed them in boxes ready to be sent off. The day before they were to have left, the house next to the one in which the officer in charge of them was lodging, took fire, and, fearing for the safety of the silks, he took them hurriedly out of the house and deposited them in the street. Shên Kwoh-ngên, who was helping to extinguish the fire, saw these boxes, as did also a friend of his, and the latter suggested to Shên that they should carry one off. Shên yielded to the temptation, and the trio, with the assistance of some others, took advantage of the excitement and the pressure of the crowd to make away with a box. They took it to a hut some distance off and found on forcing it open that the contents consisted of twenty-five pieces of white embroidered silk, which they divided amongst them. When the fire was got under, and the officer in charge of the silks took them back to the house, he found on counting them that the number was short by two boxes, and immediately reported his loss to the Magistrate. The theft was brought home to Shên by the discovery of the missing box in his possession with the lock twisted off, and through him his confederates were convicted. Chow Pao-ch'u, the instigator of the theft, absconded and has not yet been captured, so memorialist proceeded to pass sentence upon Shên. As he was unaware that the silk was destined for Imperial use, his crime has been treated as an ordinary theft, and in the absence of any law or precedent precisely applicable to the present case, the memorialist has decided to deal with him as the accessory to a theft the value of which exceeds Tls. 120, the legal punishment for which is banishment to the New Dominion to perform official work of a painful and burdensome nature. Mitigated penalties are inflicted upon those who assisted him in the theft. There is still one box of satin missing, which the officer in charge will have to make good—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

(3) Fêng-shên, Military Governor of Heh-lung-kiang, and his colleague T'o K'o-jui, report the manslaughter of a girl under peculiar circumstances. She was subject to fits, and her father, Liang Chêng-fa by name, asked a connection of his who had had some practise as a doctor, to prescribe for her. The doctor, who was called Chao Shih-shêng, came to see the girl, and as she had the appearance of a dangerous lunatic and was dancing wildly about, singing crazy songs, he feared she was possessed with evil spirits and proposed to frighten them out of her. The father consented, and at Chao's request prepared two agricultural knives for his use. The same night Chao set out a table with incense and candles, and called upon Liang and his wife to lay their daughter flat upon the *k'ang* face upwards. They did so, and he next told them to open the front of her dress. These preparations made, the father held the upper part of the girl's body down and the mother held her legs, whereupon Chao took one of the knives and placed it horizontally across the girl's stomach with the edge touching her skin. The ends of the knife were then held by two of Chao's friends, while the father prayed that his daughter's madness might be cured. Chao meanwhile left the room with the other knife and danced and sang outside the room praying to the spirits to aid him, while the father made the responses. After this had gone on long enough, Chao re-entered the room and walked up to the sick girl, chanting, and muttering incantations to the spirits to exercise their powers and drive the demons out of her. Then he raised the knife that he held in his hand, and struck the girl's stomach with the back of it in order to frighten the spirits out of her. Unfortunately the knife was a two-edged one and cut so deeply into the girl's stomach that the bowel protruded and she died after writhing for a short time in agony upon the *k'ang*. Chao Shih-shêng has been sentenced to strangulation, after the usual autumn revision.

August 21st.—(1) Li Wên-min 李文敏 is appointed Governor of Kiangsi, and P'eng Tsu-hien is made Judicial Commissioner of the same province.

(2) A decree appointing Chow Kia-mei 周家楣 to the post of Governor of the Shun-t'ien prefecture.

(3) A decree appointing Wang Wên-shao, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies, to do duty in the Tsung-li Yamên, and Chow Kia-mei, Governor of the Shun-t'ien prefecture and Secretary in the Tsung-li Yamên, to do duty as Minister in the latter establishment.

(4) Hu P'in-che 胡聘之 is appointed Censor of the Honan circuit.

(5) Jung Kwei 榮貴 is appointed Censor of the southern division of the metropolis.

(6) Kwei Fêng, Imperial Resident in Tibet, requests that the appointment of Shêng Jung, Commissioner in Tibet,* whose term of office has expired, may be renewed for another two years, as he has proved himself a valuable and useful officer, and has a thorough experience in the conduct of relations with the barbarians (the Ghorkas, or Nepalese, with whom the Resident acts as the medium of relations.) When the King of Nepal sent a tribute mission to His Majesty last year, Shêng Jung was sent to Nieh-la-mu to escort the envoy and his suite, and performed his duties most satisfactorily. As it will be necessary to see to the safe conduct of this mission on their return, and relations with the barbarian neighbours are of an important nature, requiring tact that is only gained by experience, memorialist feels compelled to apply for the renewal of the appointment of the aforesaid individual. —Granted by Rescript.

[* Note.—"Commissary. Of this rank three Chinese officials, belonging to the class of sub-Prefect or Assistant Magistrate, are stationed at Lassa, Tashilumbo, and Ngari, where they act both as paymasters of the Chinese forces and as deputies of the Imperial Residents in all matters concerning Chinese interests in Tibet."—Mayers's "Chinese Government," p. 103.]

August 22nd.—(1) A decree appointing Hu Yên-kw'ei 胡延夔 to the post of Prefect of Shun-k'ing Fu, in Szech'wan.

(2) Hai Jung 海容 is appointed Prefect of Ning Hia, in Kansuh.

(3) A decree based upon a representation submitted by the Court of Censors complaining of the habitual delays that are practised in the hearing and settlement of appeal cases, and a custom that prevails amongst the local authorities of neglecting to visit in person the scene of the crimes which call forth these appeals. The attention of the officials concerned is directed to the regulations that exist on the subject of these cases, and prompt and unsparing retribution is promised to those who display carelessness or dilatoriness in the

performance of these particular duties. Jeh-hoh and the Manchurian provinces are indicated by the Censorate as particularly deserving of censure, and the high authorities there are specially warned to exercise more care in the future.

(4) Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, reports the trial of a man who strangled his mother, and his summary execution by the *ling ch'ih* process. The circumstances are as follows:—Ts'ao Kin-kwan lived with his mother, Shên Shih, at Kia-ting Hien. His father died some time ago, and his mother, a violent tempered woman, married a second time a man called Kwan, but the pair did not agree and he divorced her, whereupon Ts'ao took his mother back to his house to live with him. He had for many years been employed as farm labourer to a woman called Kwan, some of whose land he rented, but the woman Kwan had reason to be dissatisfied with him on account of his idleness, and dismissed him, taking away from him at the same time the land she had let to him. Ts'ao had to look elsewhere for work, and took a place as coolie at a temple, returning home periodically to see his mother, who resented his dismissal as a personal affront to herself, and lost no opportunity of abusing the woman Kwan both to her face and behind her back. On one occasion when her son came to see her after one of her periodical fights with the woman Kwan, for which a relative had rebuked her, she kept on cursing and abusing her enemy until her son begged her to stop, declaring that her violence and temper were a great hindrance to his advancement in life. She then turned her wrath upon him, and disowned him for ever as her son, declaring that she would have it out with her enemy the next morning, and would risk her life in the satisfaction of her vengeance. The son, who dared not argue with her, went to bed and controlled his wrath. About the middle of the night he heard the door of the house creak, and guessed that his mother had gone out. As he thought of his mother's violent temper, and of his difficulty in obtaining employment from his fellow villagers, owing to their fear of her, and as her threat of venturing her life on the morrow in the execution of her schemes of vengeance recurred to his memory, a wild and foolish fancy seized him and the idea suggested itself to his mind how much better it would be that her own death should be compassed, and an opening made for his re-employment by the woman Kwan. Full of this idea he rose from his bed and stealthily followed his mother. She was hard of hearing, and was unaware that he was creeping up behind her. When he got near, he unloosed his girdle and threw it suddenly round her neck, dragging her to the ground and tightly drawing the ends until she soon died of suffocation. He then proceeded to drag the body to the house of his mother's enemy, but his strength failed him before he got there, he became alarmed lest the dawning day should reveal his connection with the crime to some passer by, and the barking of a dog augmenting his fears, he abandoned his victim and fled. Remorse speedily overtook him, and he himself confessed his crime with tears of bitter sorrow, and the usual formalities having been gone through, the penalty that the law awards to a parricide was summarily inflicted upon him.

August 23rd.—(1) Tsai Ling 載齡 and She Tsêng 師曾 are respectively appointed principal and secondary High Commissioners of the Customs and Octroi of Peking.

(2) The Governor-General of Mincheh and the Governor of Fuhkien request that an honorary title may be given by His Majesty to the Tsze T'sing-kung, a temple on the Wu-she-shan in Foochow, the presiding deity of which has at all times manifested its divine powers in answer to prayer, whether for fine weather, for rain, deliverance from pestilence, or other mercies. Representations on the subject have been received from various officials and influential gentry, and memorialists are themselves able to testify from personal experience to the efficacy of prayers for deliverance from floods and pestilence that have recently been offered in this temple. —Referred by Rescript to the Board of Ceremonies.

No other documents of importance.

August 24th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Li Hung-chang suggesting that in future applications for honorary rewards to contributors to offices for the sale of titles shall be made direct to His Majesty, instead of through the Board as has hitherto been the practice in the case of some offices. The latter arrangement has been found in some instances to result in the transposition of the order of applicants for titles, and other malpractices. The suggestion is adopted, and it is hereby decreed that in future all applications of this nature from these offices shall be made direct to His Majesty. The memorial submitting the names of the applicants

should not enter into details regarding such applicants, which must be reserved for a list to be forwarded simultaneously to the Board of Revenue.

(2) Li P'ei-king, Governor of Kweichow, requests that an office for the sale of titles that he had permission to establish for one year in Shantung to raise funds for the various financial exigencies of the province under his control, may be allowed to remain open for another year. A similar office was opened in Honan, but the proceeds of that establishment have been appropriated by the Governor, with His Majesty's sanction, for relief purposes. Returns have not yet been sent from the office in Shantung, and no remittances have yet arrived, but with the many calls for expenditure in memorialist's province, especially in connection with military matters and the work of reorganisation, it will be impossible to dispense with the extraneous aid afforded by these agencies, the more that the various provinces which are under an obligation to aid with funds, are most irregular in forwarding contributions, in some instances not a dime having been sent throughout the whole year.—Granted by Rescript.

August 25th.—(1) A decree conferring the name of Tsai Jun 載潤 upon the eldest son of the Prince of Hwei.

(2) Tu Jui-lien, Governor of Yünnan, reports on the agricultural conditions and prospects of his province. He has already reported to His Majesty the injurious effects of last autumn's rains upon the crops, and the measures taken to afford relief to the sufferers therefrom. Most favourable reports of the weather and the condition of the crops are now received on every side, and the harvest is likely to be an average one. An exception must however be made in the case of the Li-kiang district, which was visited in May last by a violent storm of hail which accumulated to a depth of several feet, inflicting severe injury upon the beans and wheat that were approaching maturity as well as upon the young paddy shoots that had not yet been planted out. Care was taken to ascertain the amount of damage done and the victims of the visitation, for whose solace and relief certain monies were expended, with which the "reorganisation" account will be debited. In other districts where the rainfall had not been satisfactory, alternations of rain and sunshine subsequently brought the crops into a healthy condition, and there is every reason to anticipate good harvests if this kind of weather continues.

(3) Liu Ping-kiang, Governor of Kiangsi, calls to His Majesty's remembrance a decree on the subject of female infanticide issued in the early part of the present year. Or receipt of this decree he made certain enquiries on the subject, and learns from the Financial Commissioner that the crime of female infanticide has long been rife in the province of Kiangsi, and that the foundling establishments in the provincial capital having been found to be conducted on too small a scale, owing to the want of funds, to meet the increased requirements of the city, in the year 1863 Shên Pao-chêng, who was then Governor of the Province, took the matter up, and inaugurated a charitable society the object of which was to establish foundling hospitals in all the prefectural and department towns throughout the province. He headed the subscription list with a contribution from his salary, and a foundling hospital was first established in the provincial city; and, in course of time, further subscriptions having been invited, a permanent structure was built and a fund placed out at interest in order to secure a fixed income to the establishment. The management of the funds and the general superintendence of the establishment are in the hands of the gentry, and as many as one thousand infants and upwards are sometimes annually provided for. Branch hospitals have been established in various districts and departments, under very similar rules to those in force in the capital, and the provincial authorities have frequently urged upon the gentry and better classes the necessity of supporting the indigent infants of their own district, sternly prohibiting at the same time the crime of female infanticide. Their exhortations have been attended with some success, and it shall be memorialist's care to continue the exhortations and warnings of his predecessors, and to issue stringent orders as to the disposal of the foundlings in marriage.

August 26th.—(Court Circular.) Tsêng Ki-tsêh (the Marquis Tsêng) returns thanks for the bestowal of permission to wear the decoration of the single-eyed peacock's feather.

No documents of importance.

August 27th.—(1) The Court of Censors report that they are in receipt of a petition from one Wang Ping-hün, a native of Kwang-shan district in Honan, presented by his brother. The petitioner declares that his home was broken into by a gang of burglars some two years ago, who shot

his father dead, wounded a younger brother and a serving man, and carried off all the money, clothes, &c., that they could find. The names and residence of the members of the gang were discovered, and various attempts were made to have them brought to trial, but wholesale bribery secured to the criminals the protection of the Yamên underlings against the Magistrate himself. Wearied with repeated failures to obtain justice at any of the provincial courts, petitioner had brought his case to Peking. —Referred in the usual manner.

(2) The same Court report the receipt of a petition signed by several of the gentry of the Tan district in Shantung, who complain that the villages in their district are at the mercy of a gang of robbers, who for the past four years have infested the neighbourhood and committed numerous acts of burglary and murder. They number some seventy to ninety men, and rob cattle, horses, and money, in fact everthing they can find, and everyone is in daily fear of a visit from them. Appeal to the authorities is perfectly useless, as the chief constable of the district is a relative of one of the gang, with which he is in collusion. No satisfaction having been afforded at any of the provincial courts, and the gang having threatened to burn down the house of one of the petitioners and kill him if he ventured to complain again, a joint representation has been made to Peking in the hope that something may be done.—Referred as usual.

(3) The Governor of Honan reports the escape of two criminals condemned to death and banishment respectively from the jail of the Jung-yang district town. Their escape appears to have been effected under cover of a dark and blowy night, when the watchmen on duty had taken shelter in some room and had fallen fast asleep. One of the criminals has since been re-captured, but the other remains at large, and the memorialist requests that the police-master may be cashiered preparatory to being summoned to the provincial capital, with the watchmen and other responsible persons, to be brought before a court of enquiry which will be held with a view to discovering whether the escape of the criminals was really a matter of accident or not.

August 28th.—(1) A Decree. The Censor Li T'ing-siao represents that of late there have been frequent instances of district and department Magistrates in every province falsely representing the refusal of people in their jurisdictions to yield to their inordinate demands as a resistance to constituted authority. They then apply without any forethought for a force to keep order, and the military officers, whose minds are bent on gaining distinction, add to the wrong by attacking [these unfortunates] and making a clean sweep of them. Again, when these military officers meet with those about whom suspicious stories are told, or whose ways and actions are open to doubt—or, again, any against whom they owe a grudge, they are called rebels and conspirators and are unauthorisedly tortured and put to death. He further states that numerous other abuses spring from this practice, which he prays may be put a stop to by severe prohibitions. The garrisons maintained in the various provinces were established with a view to being ready for use in emergency, and to be [the better] available for transfer to any particular spot. If, as is now alleged, their presence has been made a source of injury to the people instead of a security, this is a matter deserving the deepest abhorrence. In future, Governors-General and Governors will not make use of the military on any light and frivolous pretext, and so cause trouble and annoyance, and they will positively forbid military officers to take away life without special authority to do so. Should any such officers maltreat or tyrannise over those who have done no wrong, they shall be punished after the manner laid down by law for those who wrongfully kill without authority to do so. And if Governors-General and Governors do not set to work in earnest to exercise proper scrutiny, or display a disposition to pass over or conceal misconduct of the kind, then shall they be punished in proportion to the measure of their shortcoming, that military jurisdiction may be exercised with due decorum and restraint.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from the same officer, enunciating afresh the existing prohibition against the slaughter of plough oxen for food.

(3) Wên Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transport, requests the bestowal of a title upon the temple of Liu Mêng Kiang Kün, the God of Locusts, to whom prayers for deliverance from the plague of this insect have been addressed with great success. During the dry season that prevailed last year in the province of Kiangsu, the sky was black with clouds of locusts, and the fact that not more than a tenth of the crops were consumed by them, and that they fed on grass instead, is attributed to the influence exercised by the deity in question. A representation on the subject having been made to

memorialist, he applied to the Governor-General and Governor, and these two high officers directed the Financial Commissioner to make enquiries. He has now partically confirmed the statements of the applicants, and the personal observations of the memorialist lead him to the conclusion that there is some ground for applying for the bestowal of a title.—Referred to the Board of Ceremonies.

(4) Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Hunan, reports his arrival at his post, and the assumption of his official duties. The officials who were holding acting appointments in the high grades of the provincial government similarly report the resumption of their ordinary duties.

August 29th.—(1) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from Li Hung-chang reporting the rupture of embankment No. 14 in the 6th division of the North portion of the Yung-ting River or Grand Canal, and requesting that penalties may be inflicted upon the various officers on duty at the works in question, the Intendant of the Yung-ting River works, and himself, for their want of proper care and precaution in allowing this mishap to occur. During the summer rains the water in the Canal continually rose, but the officers charged with the care of the embankments were most energetic in their efforts to keep it within bounds, and the summer freshets may be said to have passed without mishap. Unfortunately, on the 28th August and following days, heavy rain fell incessantly day and night, and the accumulated water in the upper part of the Canal came swirling and rushing down with extraordinary vehemence and volume. On the 29th, rain fell in torrents, and the waters again suddenly rose some two feet above the top of embankment No. 14 in the 6th division of the northern works. Human efforts were of no avail against the violence of the rush, and hence a rupture occurred. The failure on the part of the officers concerned to take the necessary precautions admits of no excuse, and the following penalties are inflicted upon them :—On the *Chow-p'an*, or second-class assistant department Magistrate in whose jurisdiction the accident occurred, summary dismissal; on the assistant Sub-prefect in charge of the country on the North bank, deprivation of rank with leave to retain his post. A similar penalty is awarded the Intendant of River Works; and Li Hung-chang is committed to the Board for the determination of a mark of disapprobation.

(2) A long memorial from the Board of Revenue, to whom the question of the acceptance of the returns submitted by the Superintendent of live-stock and house duty for the eastern division of Peking was referred. In view of the depressed state of trade generally and the fact that the amounts actually collected by this officer exceed those returned by his predecessor last year, the Board are of opinion that he should neither be called upon to make good his deficit, nor be punished for allowing this deficit to occur.

(4) Li P'ei-king, Governor of Kweichow, reports the result of an examination of certain officials who have obtained the position of expectants of rank in his province by purchase or in consequence of "recommendation" for previous services. [Note.—All expectants of office who have purchased this privilege or obtained it in consideration of meritorious service (generally in connection with military matters) are obliged, if they are not already possessed of the degree of *Siu-ts'ai* or *Kü-jên*, to undergo a test examination by the high authorities of the province in which they are appointed to serve. The severity of this examination depends upon the relative importance of the office they hope to fill. Expectants for the office of Magistrate and the higher grades are called upon to write an essay upon a subject that is given them, and are divided into four classes according to the merit of their compositions. An officer obtaining a first-class certificate is likely to be given active employment before any who have been assigned a lower class, and those who obtain only a fourth class certificate are sent back to study for a year until they can pass into the higher class. A similar system is pursued with the petty officials known by the general designation of *Tso Tsa*, but in their case the literary test is confined to a proof of their capability to write out their respective *lü li*, or statements of their antecedents and career, neatly and correctly. [See also Note on purchase of rank appended to *Gazette* of 24th July.]

August 30th.—(1) A decree in answer to an application from the Governor-General of the Liang Kwang soliciting the bestowal of rewards on certain officers who distinguished themselves in operations against banditti at Fo-kang T'ing. Têng An-pang, Colonel of the Kwang-chow *Hieh*, or Canton territorial regiment, is to have his name recorded by the Grand Council for recommendation to appointment to the post of acting Brigade-General when a vacancy occurs. Chên Shao-chung, acting Brigade-General of the Nan Shao Lien division, who captured the ringleader alive and displayed

commendable energy and courage, is to be presented with a white jade thumb ring, a dagger with a handle of white jade, a pair of purses, and a flint and steel.

(2) Li Hung-mo 李宏謨 is appointed Superving Censor of the Board of Works.

(3) Wu T'ing-fên, in a postscript memorial, proposes certain modifications in the present system of advancing officers attached as Secretaries to the various Boards to substantive posts. Of these Secretaries there are three kinds: those who have advanced by the *Cheng t'ŭ* or "proper path," that is, who have obtained the highest literary degrees; those who have bought their rank, or the *tzŭ shên pan* (the "large capital class);" and those who have been advanced for meritorious services, or the *lao ki pan*. Officers belonging to the first category are appointed to what are known as *t'i k'üeh*, or vacancies reserved for officers of this class, and those of the two latter denominations to Süan K'üeh, or vacancies similarly reserved for their particular class. There are certain officers, however, who have obtained admittance to the Board as members of one of the two latter classes, and subsequent to their entry have acquired the degree of *Tsin She*. Being originally on the *Süan* list, they are now raised to the head of their class, and come first for promotion to vacancies that may occur. As, however, everyone cannot be first on the list, it has now come to pass that so large a number of these officers have obtained this privilege that a block has ensued and they have no chance or prospect of advancement. In the humble opinion of memorialist, these last mentioned individuals, having raised themselves by their own exertions into the highest class, belong, to all intents and purposes, to the *Chêng t'u*, or "proper path," and it seems hardly fair that they should not participate in the privileges accorded to members of this class. He proposes therefore that any such officers who have failed at the end of ten years to obtain appointment to vacancies to which they may be eligible as members of the second or third grades, may be allowed to participate in the privileges of the *t'i küeh*, or highest class. (See decree of August 14th.)

(4) T'uh Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, requests the bestowal of posthumous honors upon Liu-t'ing, provincial Commander-in-chief, an official of the first rank and a *Bat'uru*, upon whom a Yellow Riding Jacket had been bestowed for distinguished services, who died in the month of June last. He had been detached for special service in connection with the protection of the *route* along which grain had to pass to Honan and Shansi, and succumbed to an illness brought on by exposure to the cold and snow.—Granted by Rescript.

August 31st.—(1) A decree referring for the consideration of the Board of Revenue an application from Tsai Ngo, Superintendent of Customs at Sha-hu K'ow, whose time of office has expired, leaving him with a deficit in his supplementary receipts. He begs permission to be excused from rendering an account to the Board until the usual time for rendering the accounts of this Customs Station has expired.

(2) A long memorial from the Board of Revenue on the subject of the short amount of duties returned by the Superintendent of live-stock and house duty for the Western division of Peking, urging reasons precisely similar to those given in the case of the other Superintendent, (see *Gazette* of 30th August), for accepting the accounts rendered and foregoing the penalties to which he has rendered himself liable.

(3) Yü Lu, Governor of Anhwei, requests the bestowal of a mark of Imperial approbation upon a young girl, Yêh Kin-ku by name, the granddaughter of a former Magistrate in Shantung, and the third daughter of an expectant Prefect in Anhwei. Kin-ku, who was eighteen years of age and was betrothed to the eldest son of the Magistrate of the Sin-wu district in Honan, had waited upon her grandfather ever since she was a little child. She was chaste and accomplished, and being able to read could understand and appreciate the great principles of life. The stories of the deeds of illustrious and filial women of ancient days were for ever on her lips, and she would repeat them with relish and delight. There were no two opinions on the subject of her filial piety, which she displayed even at the early age of eleven, crying and manifesting the grief of a grown up person when her father died. Her mother was afflicted with a chronic spitting of blood, and Kin-ku would divine her wishes before she uttered them and tend to her wants in a way that delighted her mother's heart. Last March, her mother's ailment increased in intensity, and Kin-ku was ready to forego both food and sleep to wait upon her. Finding that the remedies applied were of no avail, she cut her arm and mixed [the blood] with her mother's medicine, still without effect, until at last her mother lay upon her death bed. Kin-ku, seeing there was no hope, and overwhelmed with grief,

fainted away, and when she awoke to consciousness swallowed a dose of poison. Her friends tried to save her, but she persistently declared that she wanted to wait on her mother "below the earth" and refused to apply the necessary remedies and antidotes. She died by the side of her mother's coffin within half a day of the latter's death. Her relatives and neighbours being unwilling that so meritorious a case of filial piety should not be made known, presented a petition to memorialist detailing the above facts and begging him to solicit from His Majesty a mark of Imperial approbation.—Granted by Rescript.

(4) The same officer reports his return from a tour of military inspection through the southern part of Anhwei. His route was by Si Liang Shan and Ning-kwoh Fu, where he inspected various bodies of troops; then to Wu-hu, where he visited the foreign and native Custom-houses; and from thence back to the provincial capital by the Great River, working up against the stream. Everything was said to be quiet along the route by which he travelled, but locusts were still very plentiful in spite of the rewards that have been offered for the capture of the grub and the efforts that were made to dig it out. In the T'ai-p'ing prefecture large numbers have emerged, and strenuous efforts are being made by the soldiery, as well as the field labourers, to catch them. He also noticed proclamations in various places exhorting the people that it was imperative that these locusts should be captured before their wings had grown, in order to guard against the deposit of fresh *ova* that would create future trouble and misfortune. The river embankments appeared firm and solid, but as the river was very high he gave orders that any defects or breaches caused by the weather should be immediately repaired, that no damage should ensue to the standing crops. He reached the provincial capital on the 26th June, having left it on the 13th of the same month.

September 1st.—(1) A decree granting a month's extension of congé to Yü Lu, who reports himself still unfit for duty, and directing King Liên and Ch'êng Lin to act as President of the Board of Works and General Commandant of the Gendarmerie respectively, in addition to performing their own duties.

(2) A decree inflicting penalties of a minor kind upon Ch'ing Ch'un, Tartar General at Foochow, late Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar, and Mu T'u-shan, the present Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar, to which they have been adjudicated by the Board of War in consequence of their conflicting statements regarding the temporary escape to his home of a criminal under banishment.

(3) Tso Tsung-t'ang and his coadjutor Liu Tien report the steps they have taken in obedience to a decree to put a stop to the cultivation of the poppy in their jurisdiction, and request the infliction of penalties upon certain officers who have been negligent in the performance of the duties that this prohibition entails. The poppy will only grow luxuriantly on rich and fertile land, and the result is that ignorant people, who know no better hanker after the large profits yielded by a poppy crop, which they plant on the rich land that should be devoted to cereals, discarding the good and beneficial crop for a baneful and noxious herb. Thus, not only is there no limit to the dissemination of the poison, but to this has to be added a falling off of agricultural operations since the late troubles, affording serious reason to apprehend a failure in the succession of a supply of food for the people and maintenance for the soldiery. The question caused the memorialist Tso much anxious thought, when he witnessed the condition of the country as he passed through the Wall on his return to Kansuh, and he repeatedly prohibited cultivation of the poppy by proclamation, issuing at the same time one of those four character rhyming admonitions which he caused to be printed and widely distributed. These exhortations and prohibitions have not been entirely without effect during the last few years, but nevertheless there still exists a large amount of quiet and stealthy cultivation in the outlying districts and hamlets, while it is not an uncommon practice to mingle the crop with beans and wheat in order to avoid detection and the up-rooting that would follow. Two years ago a list of penalties to be inflicted in case of negligence in the matter of supervision was forwarded by the Board of Civil Office, when renewed efforts were made by memorialists to suppress the evil. Fresh instructions were issued to local authorities, the military were called in to aid in the work of inspection, and special officers were deputed to assist the local authorities in making a thorough search throughout their respective jurisdictions, while Intendants of Circuit and Prefects were directed to visit the villages on horseback from time to time, accompanied by a scanty following. These visits were made several times each month, and whenever the poppy was found to be mingled with

the bean or corn crop it was hoed up or rooted out, until the land was everywhere ploughed up and irrigated preparatory to receiving an orthodox crop, and not a flower or plant of the poppy was to be seen, the land hitherto devoted to its cultivation being once more put to a proper use. Satisfactory reports were received from fourteen prefectures, departments, and districts respectively, but in the Ning-hia prefecture the occupiers of fertile land obstinately adhered to their evil practices, and cultivated the poppy on an extensive scale, regarding it as a fruitful source of gain, and universally declaring their inability to pay taxes on their land when the authorities attempted to enforce the prohibition, while they put a climax to their iniquity by devoting fruitful land that should have been occupied by cereals to the growth of this noxious herb. As compared with the growth antecedent to the recapture of Kin-ki-pao, the cultivation of the poppy has considerably increased, and the reason for this is explained by the fact that Mahommedans are restricted by their laws and custom from the use of opium; and the people standing in awe of them while they were in revolt, were indisposed to engage largely in its cultivation. After the recapture of Ning-hia and Ling-chow, and the expulsion of the rebels, followed by the encouragement of agricultural immigrants, a gradual increase in the cultivation of the poppy ensued, until it became several fold more extensive than in former years. On the occasion of the famine in Shênsi last year, memorialists directed the Prefect of Ning-hia to obtain supplies of grain from the people for sale to the sufferers at reduced rates, and their demand was met with the reply that there was scarcely any to be bought, the reason clearly being that at least half of the fertile land was occupied by the noxious weed. In addition to exhortation by means of proclamations, inspections, and the restraints that heads of tithings and communities are able to employ, attention being particularly directed to the six districts of the Ning-hia prefecture, the memorialists have endeavoured to overcome the practice by arguing the question on utilitarian grounds and pointing out to the people how they could reap almost equal profits by the cultivation of cotton or grain, which would realise high prices in years of dearth and searcity; crops, moreover, that have this advantage over the poppy, that they are sanctioned by law and are not liable to be rooted up and destroyed. The memorial concludes with a recommendation of certain officers who have displayed commendable energy in the execution of these orders, and denunciation of those who have shown carelessness and inattention in carrying them out. (For decree see *Gazette* of 8th August.)

September 2nd.—(1) The following appointments are announced :—Assistant Secretary, Supervisorate of Instruction, Siang Lin 祥麟. Censor, Kiangnan Circuit, Ak'o Tun 阿克敦. Censor of the same circuit, Twan Fu-ch'ang 段福昌. Censor of the Shantung Circuit, Liang Kün 梁俊.

(2) The Governor-General of Min Cheh and the Governor of Shansi submit a return of the amounts subscribed or lent by the province of Fuhkien in aid of the sufferers in Shansi. They are as follows :—

Instalment No. 1.....Tls.	20,000
Loans..... ..... ,,	10,000
Borrowed from Lin Wei-yuan (Formosa).....$	260,000
Total forwarded in Tls.....	30,000
Do. do. Dollars..	260,000

Instalment No. 1 was raised out of the funds deposited in the provincial exchequer, and memorialist, Ho King, is still under an obligation to supply an additional Tls. 400,000. Item No. 3 is a portion of the funds subscribed by Lin Wei-yuan, a "notable" residing in Formosa, who has diverted a portion of a sum of $450,000 subscribed by him to the repairs of sea walls in Formosa. He intends to visit Foochow shortly, when he will bring with him for transmission to Tientsin a further sum of $260,000.

(3) Mei K'i-chao, Governor of Chêh-kiang, reports that the three prefectures of Kin-hwa, K'ü-chow and Yên-chow were visited in the latter part of June with continuous and extraordinarily heavy rains, which were said to be caused by a *Kiao* (see Note, August 17th) that emerged from the hills from which torrents of water descended and spread over the low-lying country to so great a depth that even the higher lying eminences were affected by the rush of water, which was fifty or sixty feet deep on the level ground, a state of things that had not been known for many tens of years. The flood was particularly disastrous in the district of K'ai-hwa in K'ü-chow and that of Kien-te in Yên-chow, where many houses were submerged and numerous others completely washed away.

There was, too, certain loss of life, and the local authorities were energetic in rescuing those who were in jeopardy by means of boats, and providing those who needed it with shelter and food. At the expiration of a month a return of fine weather caused the waters to subside at a rapid rate, but the mass of débris, sand, and stones that has been left upon the fields renders it doubtful if they can be cleared in time to plant a supplementary crop. In the meantime every effort is being made by offering grain for sale at reduced rates, and other charitable means, to afford relief to the sufferers, and memorialist will be in a position at the close of the harvest to determine with more certainty what further charitable measures will be required.

(4) Wên Kwei, Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Hangchow, reports his return at the expiration of the hundred days of mourning he had to observe.

(5) Mei K'i-chao similarly reports having given over charge of the duties of this office.

September 3rd.—(Court Circular.) Ch'eng Jui paid his respects on his return from offering sacrifice at the Ming tombs.

(1) Liu Ping-chang, Governor of Kiangsi, requests permission to vacate his post, in order to minister to his mother, now eighty-six years of age. He made an application of the same nature two years ago when he went to Peking to have audience of Their Majesties, but permission was refused him. Fortunately, at that time he had two brothers at home, one of them a cripple with an impediment in his speech caused by wounds received in action, but the elder one, who is over sixty years of age, was still able to tend his mother. Letters have, however, lately reached memorialist to the effect that the elder brother was down with sickness and unable to rise, so that his mother, whose sight has failed her, has no one to wait upon her. The memorialist's anxiety on her behalf is great, and he is seized with so restless a desire to go to her that he can rest neither day nor night. As, moreover, he is not in a fit condition to give that undivided attention to his duties which their importance demands, while he is a prey to this anxiety, he feels bound once more to implore His Majesty to allow him to vacate his post. (Granted by special decree of 20th August.)

(2) The same officer reports that the draft of the revised Edition of the *T'ung Chih*, or topography, of the Kiangsi province is now complete, and only requires careful revision before it is printed and published. The last revision took place in the reign of Yung Chêng, so the present edition is over a hundred and forty years old, and there were naturally many additions and corrections to be made. The revision was commenced in 1869 under the auspices of Liu Kw'un-yi, who was then Governor of the province, and a committee was formed of certain gentry and officials at leisure for the moment, to whom the task was entrusted. So many changes have been made in the constitution of this committee, owing to the calls of its members to other duties, that at the completion of the draft only one original member remains, viz., Liu Yi, a compiler of the Hanlin, and to him and expectant Taotai Chow Su-sien has been entrusted the superintendence of the final revision of proofs and the printing and publication of the volume. which they are given three months more to get out. A copy will be offered to His Majesty as soon as it is ready.

(3) As the work referred to above will occupy all the time of Chow Su-sien, it will be impossible for him to attend at the same time to the duties of acting Judge, and memorialist begs to recommend Shên Pao-king, Taotai of the Kwang, Jao, Kiu, Nan, circuit to succeed him in the acting post.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) Kwoh Lo-min and Mei K'i-chao, Tartar General at Hangchow and Governor of Chêhkiang respectively, report the capture of one Yung Fu, a discharged bannerman, who was the cause of the disturbance at Lien K'iao in the city of Hangchow (see *Gazette* of 15th June.) He had absconded after causing the death of the shopkeeper, and spies were sent in every direction to look for him. He was finally discovered by a bannerman on his way to Nanking, who had been directed to keep a look out for him.

September 4th.—(1) A decree in answer to an application from the Mongolian Superintendency for permission to be allowed to correct an error in the Chinese text of a certain postscript memorial, submitting for approval the sentences passed upon two prisoners who escaped from custody at Ch'ahar. The name of one of these prisoners had been wrongly written, and while confirming the sentence of strangulation and banishment respectively passed upon them, the error pointed out is characterised as a piece of extreme carelessness, for which the Secretary responsible is to be punished, as is also the head of department who allowed the mistake to pass. The Secretaries of the Grand

Secretariat who did not detect the error are also to be handed over to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

(2) Ts'üan Ts'ing, President of the Board of Punishments, and his colleagues, report the sudden death of the complainant in a case of disputed value of certain pigs that had been sold by him. The Secretary to whom this case had been entrusted declared that the man suddenly died after being slapped upon the mouth, but as there is a suspicion of his death having been caused by the application of illegal modes of torture, the memorialists pray His Majesty to direct high officers to hold an enquiry in concert with the heads of the Board. (See Decree of 19th August.)

(3) Chow Hêng-k'i, Financial Commissioner of Chihli, reports the assumption of the duties of his post.

(4) T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shênsi, in accordance with the regulation ordering a semi-annual return from provincial Governments of appeal cases that have been referred to them, reports that no cases of this nature have been sent to him during the past six months. He has two still pending, but owing to the difficulty of getting the parties to the suit and their witnesses together in consequence of the general dispersion that the recent famine has caused, there is likely to be some further delay in their final hearing and settlement.

(5) The same officer reports the suicide of an expectant sub-Prefect who was in charge of an office for the receipt of grain for famine distribution. He had spent the night at the house of the sub-Prefect of T'ung-kwan, and the next morning his servant reported that his master had left the house surreptitiously and was nowhere to be found. He was searched for high and low, but no trace of him could be discovered until two days had elapsed, when a policeman on duty at the ferry reported that when the water of the river had gone down on that day the body of a male was revealed lying upon a sand-bank. The brother of the deceased, who had fortuitously passed through the place on his way elsewhere and stopped to join in the search, went to see the body and identified it as that of his elder brother. An inquiry was then held, which proved that the deceased had committed suicide by drowning. Enquiry addressed to his servant subsequently elicited the fact that his master had been much exercised in mind in consequence of some irregular proceedings by the gentry employed in the grain office of which he was the head, and had expressed to his servant his anxiety as to the possible result of some anonymous proclamations that were issued about him. The revelations of his servant having thus indicated a possibility of corruption on the part of the deceased in which others were implicated, memorialist felt it his duty to give orders for the apprehension of a certain Kao Kin-t'ang, one of the notables under the deceased, who was said by the servant to have absconded after having committed some act of fraud.

September 5th.—(1) A decree granting permission to Ma Ju-lung, Commander-in-chief in Hunan, to vacate his post.

(2) A decree on administrative reform in reply to a representation from the Censor Tung Tsun-han. Delay in judicial investigations forms, as usual, one of the objects of attack, and the stereotyped answer is given. Taxation and the abuses in its collection next come under review. There are fixed and certain regulations under which the levy of land-tax, grain-tax, and *lekin* is conducted, and extortion or tyranny on the part of the collectors can never be tolerated. It appears that Magistrates of departments and districts are frequently given to attempting to obtain more than the fixed amount when levying taxes upon grain or land, and invent pretexts for extortion and oppression. What is even worse, *Wei-yuans* in charge of *lekin* stations are given to exacting taxes upon every little article of food or the like that the peasant may be carrying in his hand, and trying by a hundred dishonest means to put money in their own pockets. Such conduct provokes the deepest abhorrence, and provincial high authorities will set to work in earnest to re-adjust these matters, and are hereby called upon to exercise a careful scrutiny over their subordinates, inflicting condign and unsparing punishment upon any who may be guilty of offences of the above nature. They will remember that any attempt to screen or gloss over misconduct of the kind will be visited upon them as well as their subordinates.

(3) The Court of Censors report the receipt of a petition from one Chang Yü-shu, a petty official residing in the district town of T'ao-yuan in Hunan, who had obtained a recommendation or promotion and was just about to start for Peking when his house was broken into by a number of disreputable gentry who robbed him of Tls. 2,000, struck his wife and concubine, and carried him off to another place where they beat him and treated him with indignity. He was rescued from captivity by the Magistrate's underlings, and an investigation was held fully establishing the facts

of the case. Nevertheless, no justice was done. Interest was brought to bear through the son of the Magistrate, and bribery was set in motion. Appeal was made to Judge and Governor without result, so a petition was finally presented at Peking.

(4) Ch'i Yuan, acting Governor-General of Feng-t'ien, reports the conclusion of the summer patrol of the Corean frontier by a Chinese Official and an officer appointed for the purpose by the King of Corea. The Corean Official, as usual, drew up a written acknowledgment of the quiet and proper condition of the frontier, which he stamped with his seal and handed to the Chinese Official.

(5) The Court of Censors forward an appeal from a widow in Szech'wan, whose house was broken into by robbers, who wounded her son so badly that he died, and carried off some of her cattle. The robbers decamped on the arrival of some members of the train-band, who seized one of their number. The prisoner, the wounded son, and the widow were taken next day to the Magistrate, and the prisoner, who had been injured by his captors, died at the Magistrate's door. In spite, however, of such powerful testimony, the Magistrate would not take up the case, even going so far as to be at the widow and her son, and to descend from his table in the hall of justice to kick and abuse some of the by-standers who laughed contemptuously at his method of dispensing justice. The widow had appealed three times at the Prefecture, once to the Taotai, seven times to the Judge, and four times to the Governor-General.—Referred as usual.

September 6th.—(1) A decree appointing Lo Ta-ch'un 羅大春 to the post of Commander-in-chief in Hunan.

(2) The Court of Censors report the receipt of a petition from one Li Fêng-kang, a native of the Chao-yang district in Yeh-hoh, who complains that his brother has been the victim of the revenge of a gang of desperadoes who suspected him of having induced the widow of a man murdered by them to charge them with the crime. They accordingly broke into his brother's house in broad daylight and killed him, his two sons, his grandson and four servants, having on a previous occasion during his brother's absence plundered the house of everything they could find and wounded his wife and daughters. Three years have elapsed since this outrage was perpetrated, but no steps have yet been taken to bring the guilty parties to justice.

(3) The Court of Censors bring to His Majesty's notice the serious delays that now occur in the hearing of cases preferred in provincial Courts, and the habitual neglect of the local authorities to conduct the enquiries in person, Jeh-hoh and the three Manchurian provinces being particularly to blame in this respect. Although the petitions presented may not necessarily be true in every particular, they are all based upon fact, and have had something to call them forth. The law defines certain limits of time for the investigation of cases of homicide, and prompt inspection of the body, with the wounds that caused decease, is one of the most important essentials in cases of the kind. In spite of this it is sometimes delayed for several months, and in some instances even for years, by which time the guilty parties have in the generality of cases made their escape to some distant place, and the body of their victim has been devoured by animals, so that all traces of the cause of death are obliterated and only an imperfect skeleton is left. Both parties adhere to their version of the story, and underlings reap a harvest between them by the practice of abuses too numerous to mention. Under such circumstances the decisions come to cannot but be formed on insufficient bases, and the "steaming process" by which they arrive at a diagnosis of the cause of death is a painful and a deplorable one. Minor and petty officials are not allowed by law to take evidence or depositions without special authority to do so, and how much less should they be allowed so lightly to determine questions affecting the life of the subject? And yet men of this class are entrusted with these matters, and the friends of the responsible officer are allowed to undertake his duties for him. How can any positive assurance be given that these individuals, who are exercising functions that do not belong to them, will be universally endowed with sufficient self-respect? and under such circumstances it becomes apparent that rampant abuse must in many instances prevail. It is not thus that proper security for life is to be afforded, and it consequently becomes the duty of memorialists to beg His Majesty to direct the Board of Punishments and provincial officials to conduct investigations and enquiries into cases of homicide in the manner that is laid down by law, and to establish the fact that failure to give prompt notice of a case of homicide within a reasonable time will be visited upon the *ti-pao* or other responsible person, and that delay in the investigation of the circumstances of such outrages, or enquiry by deputy will meet with condign punishment. (See Decree of 28th Aug.)

September 7th.—(1) A decree directing the Board of War and the particular Banner concerned to make enquiries for the surviving relatives of Ch'ang Ching and Ming Sü, late Military Governors of Ili, whose remains, with those of the latter's wife, have been recovered by Tso Tsung-t'ang and sent by him under charge of an officer to Peking for interment. The relatives will be called upon to afford them proper burial, that loyal spirits may find rest.

(2) A decree deputing an officer to ascertain the nature of certain repairs to the Mausoleum of the Emperor Tao Kwang, and to the offices of the Control Department of the Imperial household, which the latter office declare to be necessary.

(3) Ming An, Military Governor of Kirin, and his colleagues, memorialise with regard to the conditions of taxation in the province of Kirin. They have frequently reported the steps they have taken for the improvement of the revenue of this province, and they have now to submit certain further suggestions for His Majesty's sanction and approval. The Imperial High Commissioner Tsao Pao, when he visited Manchuria, raised the taxation in the subprefectures of Kirin, Ch'ang Ch'un and Petunê to ten times their former amount; but the taxation in the other towns was left untouched, no scrutiny having been made. On the arrival of memorialist, Ming An, at his present post, he made it his constant duty to enquire into the details of the levy of the taxes in the above-mentioned towns in order to discover, if possible, whether the officers entrusted with this levy were not guilty of reservation in the report of the amounts collected. Having reason to suspect their integrity in the collection of certain items, application was made for permission to place the collection of dues upon wine, timber, etc., in Kirin under the control of officers appointed by the Governor, the collectors in the other towns being at the same time cautioned against fraud and dishonesty. As, however, the taxes collected on land and miscellaneous articles at Ningutà, Sansing, Altchuka, and other smaller places were in excess of the amount at which they were severally assessed, and there was reason to believe that the officers engaged in their collection were appropriating the surplus to their own use, certain officers were sent to different places to ascertain the real facts of the case. They found that the collection during the past few years had, in effect, exceeded the assessed amount, a fact that was freely admitted by the collectors themselves, who explained that this surplus had not been appropriated by them but had been devoted to the defraying of office expenses of various kinds for which no grant was allowed them. They furnished accounts of the manner in which this money was expended, and an inspection of their registers, which in some instances were compared with the books of certain shops, bore out the statements that they made. The memorialists then proceed to state that the population of this region has much increased of late years, and has caused a corresponding increase in the tax receipts, side by side with which the machinery for its collection has gradually grown and developed. No grants being allowed for the current working expenses of the Lieutenant-Governor's Yamêns or those of their subordinates, the collectors were correct in their statement as to the application of the surplus raised to the support of these establishments. Memorialists therefore hope that His Majesty will be pleased to forego the recovery of these amounts from the officers who have expended them without authority, and they will cause it to be understood that henceforward all taxes received must be sent forward, commencing with the present year, at the close of which certain deductions will be allowed for office expenditure, and the balance will form the basis of assessment for future years, from which no abatement will be permitted.

(4) Postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang, who represents that the officers appointed to superintend the working and management of the China Merchants' Company, being unable, from the varied nature of their occupations and duties, to reside permanently in the Shanghai office, which from its central position and commercial importance requires particularly careful supervision, only one officer, the Taotai Sü Jun is at present resident in Shanghai. Although nothing has gone wrong under his administration, the responsibilities of the office are heavy, and numerous collateral interests are involved, which render it important that he should be aided in the management by an intelligent officer of high standing and experience. The memorialist accordingly begs to recommend Yêh T'ing-ch'un 葉廷眷, expectant Taotai in Kiangsu, who has had much experience, in the several capacities of superintendent of defence works at Sungkiang, Magistrate at Shanghai, superintendent of grain transport, etc., in the conduct of official business. He is well fitted to undertake the general management of the interests of the Company with T'ang T'ing-ch'ü

(Tong King-sing) and Sü Jun, and will be sure to promote economy where compatible with profit, and to give honest attention to the interests of the Company.—Rescript: Noted.

September 8th.—(1) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from the Court of Censors who report that a petition has been lodged with them by one Sü Kün-yung, formerly Magistrate of the Fêng-tu district of Szech'wan, who was dismissed some years ago on a charge of having basely deserted his post in a time of danger. The waters of the river had flooded the city, and instead of endeavouring to rescue life, he was said to have been the first to procure a boat and seek safety in flight. He now denies this charge, which he declares was fabricated by a number of gentry in his district who bore a grudge against him, and had powerful friends in the Governor's Yamên. The case is referred to Ting Pao-chêng, who, as the case occurred previous to his incumbency, will be in a position to view the matter from an impartial standpoint and give it a fair and unbiassed hearing.

(2) A long memorial from Li Hung-chang requesting the adoption of certain modifications in the present system of applying for rewards to contributors at the Shansi and Honan famine agencies. The nature of the changes proposed are summarised in a decree of the 24th August.

(3) The same officer refers His Majesty to an application lately made by him for permission to obtain three thousand brood mares from the Governor of Ch'ahar, to be lent to the famine sufferers in Ho-kien and other prefectures in Chihli, for ploughing purposes, their own animals having long ago all died or been sold out. The Governor of Ch'ahar has now given orders for them to be sent forward, and memorialist has deputed officers to meet the flock with forage and bring them on, directions having been at the same time given for certain officers to consider the best plan of apportioning the animals amongst the farmers. It has been found, however, that the number now on their way will not be sufficient to meet the demand, and hearing that the Manchu and Mongolian stock breeders in the neighbourhood of Kalgan were noted for their liberality and generosity, memorialist sent a district Magistrate among them to solicit contributions of cattle. Mu T'u-shan, Governor of Ch'ahar, generously identified himself with the scheme, and the result has been most successful, over 1,600 head of cattle having already been contributed, with every prospect of the number being shortly doubled. The animals will be sent forward in instalments, and distributed as may be found necessary. The service rendered by these people of Ch'ahar is by no means small. It has hitherto been the practice in computing values with a view to the bestowal of rewards for contributions of animals offered by them, to reckon the value of a camel at Tls. 30, and that of a horse at Tls. 13, but as the recent bad harvests have raised the price of forage, and, consequently, of stock, the memorialist now proposes to reckon the value of cattle at Tls. 14 per head, and he will shortly submit a list of names for the bestowal of honours for contributions reckoned on this basis.

(4) The same memorialist sends a return of the duties collected at the native Custom House at Tientsin during the past year by Ting Show-ch'ang, Customs Taotai. The annual amount at which this office is assessed is distributed as follows:—

Chêng-ngo, or regular assessment	Tls.	40,464
Freight on copper (?)	,,	7,693
Office expenses and surplus assessment	,,	20,000
Maintenance money for Board	,,	12,846
Contribution to Imperial Household	,,	12,380
Total,	Tls.	93,383

The receipts for the present year are as follows:—

Collected by Li Chao-t'ang, late Taotai	Tls.	32,274
Collected by Ting Show-ch'ang, Acting Taotai	,,	31,615
Add, deduction on duties allowed to junks with tribute grain	,,	28,744
Total,	Tls.	92,633

which leaves a deficit of Tls. 750 on the contribution to the Imperial Household, which will be made good by the acting Taotai himself.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

September 9th.—(Court Circular.) The Prince of Tun returns thanks for a present of bird's nests.

(1) A decree consenting to an application from Tso Tsung-t'ang for the restoration to their original rank and titles of two officers who distinguished themselves in the siege and capture of Turfan. Their names had been accidentally omitted from the list of recommendations forwarded at the time,

and for this act of carelessness T'so Tsung-t'ang is to be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

(2) The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a long memorial from Liu Kw'un-yi, Governor of the Two Kwang provinces, reporting the trial of one Wang San-yi and his accomplices, who succeeded by means of the most barefaced frauds in swindling a number of ignorant men and women out of more than $2,000. The three leading spirits in this swindle were Wang San-yi, above mentioned, Hwang Tso-chow, and a woman called Wang, the latter of whom drove a trade as a sorceress in the Kieh-yang district in Kwangtung close to Ch'ao-chow Fu. Wang San-yi was born in Fuhkien, but was kidnapped when he was ten years old, and brought to the Kieh-yang district, where his captors intended to sell him. So strumous and diseased was he, however, that no one would buy him, and his kidnappers then deserted him and left him to his own devices. The boy, having no home to go to, wandered about from village to village begging for scraps of food. In course of time he found his way to the woman Wang's establishment, and, as usual, asked for alms, and begged that she would take him in and give him sustenance. She accordingly took him into her *chai-t'ang*, as she called the place where she practised her sorceries and fortune-telling craft, and put him to domestic work, calling him her adopted son. Hwang Tso-chow used often to drop into the woman Wang's place for a chat, and they were intimate acquaintances. In 1804, Wang San-yi, who was then 16 years of age, growing tired of his life of drudgery, thought he would like to go among the hills and be a hermit; so his foster mother asked Hwang to take him to a certain hill close by and instal him in a hut, which he did, and the two used to send Wang periodical contributions of food. He did not get enough to eat in this manner, so he resumed his calling of beggar amongst the neighbouring villages. He led this life for ten years, but finding begging a hard calling, he thought he would let his hair grow and become a Taoist priest, getting a living by asking alms for religious purposes. He requested Hwang to communicate his plan to the woman Wang, and beg her to make a suit of clothes for him such as are worn by Taoist priests, and when these had been given him he moved his quarters into a deserted temple upon another hill. One day in the month of January, 1877, Hwang was sitting chatting with Wang in his temple, who complained that he was tired of a calling that barely gave him food to eat, and imparted to Hwang a plan he had devised of passing himself off as a *Wang Yeh*, or Prince, and defrauding the simple villagers of money. He asked Hwang, in pursuance of this scheme, to tell the woman Wang to delude the women-folk who patronised her, into subscribing money for the construction of a boat into which she was to move with her paraphernalia, and from thence carry on a series of frauds. The woman entered into the scheme, and proceeded to raise money for the boat by declaring that a *P'u-sa* was coming down from Heaven in the following year, and that Ch'ao-chow was bound to suffer from a disastrous flood, so that it would be necessary to propitiate the deity by contributions of money from the faithful, which would be devoted to the construction of a boat in which escape could be made to the sea from the flood if necessary. The story found ready credence, and in the course of a few months more than $2,000 were raised by the fraud. The boat was then begun, and just before its completion, stories were busily circulated by Hwang and the woman about a revelation in a dream of the coming visitation of some wondrous personage who would bring fortune to all who met him. The boat was finished in October, 1877, and called the *San-k'i-chw'an*, or "Vessel of the three wonders." The woman Wang then moved into it with her grand-daughter, taking with her her images and paraphernalia, which were duly arranged in the cabin, and men and women were invited to visit the vessel and propitiate the deity by offerings of money. Wang San-yi then prepared to enter upon the scene, and with this object provided himself with clothes and baggage, a forged Imperial decree, an official seal, red and blue buttons, and official hats. He bought at the same time some foreign shirtings, which he caused to be made into banners and servants' clothes, upon the former of which he caused dragons to be painted, and on the latter the characters *Wang Yung* or "Prince's Body-guard." These preparations were made at another place, to which he had moved, and in the month of February he came in state to the boat. The woman Wang then gave out privately that this was the illustrious personage whose advent was announced to her in a dream; that he was a prince who had been sent by the late Emperor on a private mission throughout the Empire to look out for all good doers, and that as soon as he returned to Peking he would shave his

head and resume his rank. He was unfortunately in want of funds, and now was the time for those who wished to obtain something good to come forward with contributions. The story took, and contributions came in so fast that the conspirators had soon netted over $1,800. In a few days the Magistrate heard of the imposture that was being practised, and had the trio and their accomplices arrested and brought to trial, when the above facts were elicited. Wang San-yi was found guilty of practising imposture and employing insignia of rank to which he was not entitled, and was accordingly decapitated under the standing Imperial death warrant. Hwang Tso-chow and the woman Wang were sentenced to decapitation after the usual term of incarceration, and the persons who played minor parts in the fraud were severally punished in proportion to the extent of their guilt.

September 10th.—(1) A decree directing the dismissal of Li Si-k'i, Magistrate of the Lu-shih district in Honan, who has been denounced by the Governor for improvidence in the manner of distributing relief, whereby supplies ran short. He is to be placed on his trial, with a view to ascertaining whether the acts complained of were the result of carelessness or fraud.

(2) Chow Jui-ts'ing 周瑞清 is appointed a Commissioner of the Office of Transmission.

(3) Memorial by the Censor Li T'ing-siao on the subject of the employment of the military by subordinate provincial officials on light and frivolous pretexts. His observations have been summarised in the decree on the subject, published in the *Gazette* of 28th August.

(4) Postscript memorial by the same Censor requesting His Majesty to enunciate afresh the existing prohibition against the slaughter of oxen. As the famine in Shansi and Honan is drawing to a close, the want of seed corn and plough oxen begins to make itself felt, and yet the ignorant peasantry, directly they see a fair prospect of a harvest, are as improvident as ever. Of late the disposition to slaughter oxen has been universally on the increase, and this disposition is particularly marked in the prefecture of Honan. Plough oxen are aids to agriculture, and hence are important agents in the provision of food supplies. Thus, if their strength and power is availed of and they are also butchered, an interruption of the harmony of [the laws of nature] as ordered by the Maker of all things must necessarily ensue. The State, on the occasion of great sacrificial ceremonies, makes use of cattle as the victims of sacrifice, and the petty trader on the market follows this precedent and stealthily kills the animals for food, thereby disregarding the stringent prohibition on the subject. Memorialist therefore prays His Majesty to give directions for the renewed enunciation of this prohibition by provincial authorities. (For decree see *Gazette* of 28th August.)

(5) Liu Kw'un-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, reports the resumption of his official duties at the expiration of his congé.

(6) Li Hung-chang in a postscript memorial solicits the bestowal of a mark of distinction upon a young girl, the daughter of an official, who from her earliest childhood had manifested the utmost filial devotion and was the joy of her father's heart. Her mother fell sick, and the daughter tended her with unwearying care, but her malady was beyond redemption and she died. Whereupon the daughter poisoned herself with liquid gold, that she might be able to continue her ministration to her mother in another world.—Rescript: An application to the same effect has been made by Yü Lu. We sanction the bestowal of a mark of distinction.

(7) The Governor-General of the Two Kwang requests permission to defer the payment of certain arrears due on the salt *gabelle* for the year 1874, as the yield of the present year has been considerably reduced by unfavourable weather.—Granted by rescript.

September 11th—(Court Circular.) Ch'ung How had audience.

(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, reporting on the capabilities of different prefectures to bear taxation during the latter half of the financial year, and requesting permission to remit or levy grain-tax accordingly. In conformity with his suggestions, P'ing-yang, and other prefectures and sub-prefectures in the Southern portion of the province, which are for the most part waste, and where crops have been scanty in consequence of scarcity of rain, are entirely absolved from payment of the grain-tax due for the second half of the present financial year, as well as from certain arrears which were to be made good in the autumn of 1879. A notice of this remission is to be printed on yellow paper and freely distributed throughout the districts concerned, that the Imperial bounty may actually reach those for whom it is exercised, and the

possible fraud of a corrupt executive be frustrated by the publicity given to the Imperal Act of Grace. The Governor is further directed to send in a report on the condition of the prefectures in the North of the province, and certain others that are enumerated, as well as that portion of the province beyond the Wall, and to accompany this report with an account of the manner in which he proposes to deal with each particular district.

(2) A decree directing the Imperial College of Inscriptions to prepare a memorial board to be reverently suspended in the *Kwan Ti Miao*, or temple to the God of War, in the Hwai-ts'ing prefecture of Honan, as a token of Imperial gratitude for manifestations in answer to prayers for rain.

(3) Fêng Erh-ch'ang 馮爾昌 is appointed Censor of the Metropolitan Circuit.

(4) Memorial from Li Hung-chang reporting a breach in the banks of the Grand Canal, some 400 or 500 feet wide, at Pachow in the 14th division of the 6th section of the northern portion of the Canal. The memorial has been fully summarised in an earlier decree. (See *Gazette* of August 30th.)

(5) The same officer sends in the usual biennial report on the conduct and capabilities of the *Weiyuan*, or deputies of the Superintendent of the Shan-hai Customs Barrier, who are charged with the conduct of Customs and international matters at Niuchwang. The Superintendent gives a favourable report of the officers in question, seven in number, and suggests certain rewards that he thinks should be conferred upon them. His recommendations are supported by the memorialist and granted by rescript.

(6) Postscript memorial from Li Hung-chang reporting the donation of Tls. 5,400 to the Shansi Famine Fund by one Ying Kwei, a native of Kiangsu, and an expectant Taotai, who has distinguished himself in a long military career. He is a man of moderate means and the contribution, for which he deprecates any application for a reward, is a handsome one for a man of his station. One Chu Show-mo, who recently subscribed Tls. 3,000, was informed by the Board that he should have a button of the 2nd rank in consideration of a further payment of Tls. 2,400, and as Ying Kwei's subscription amounts to more than the above total, memorialist suggests that a similar honor should be granted him.—Referred to the Board of Revenue.

September 12th.—(1) A decree in answer to a representation from the Censor Fu Ta-chang on the subject of the laxity that prevails in the provinces with regard to certain matters of official routine. There is a standing rule to the effect that all officers sent to do duty in a province who have obtained their appointment by purchase or "recommendation," shall remain on probation for a year, at the end of which time the Governor-General or Governor of the province in which they serve is to report on the capacity and intelligence of each officer, who will be rejected or detained for future employment accordingly. The Censor complains that this rule has now been allowed to become a mere empty form, as all officers on probation are invariably reported well of. Provincial high authorities are hereby directed to give due effect to the rule, and, breaking through the trammels of partiality and prejudice, to furnish hereafter an unbiassed report on the merits and qualifications of all officers upon probation.

(3) A decree referring to a protest presented at the Court of Censors by one Tsêng Shao-sün, Magistrate in Kiangsu, who was cashiered on a charge of being addicted to the vice of opium smoking. He challenged an investigation, and Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, was directed to hold an enquiry. He now reports that upon summoning the ex-Magistrate before him he found that he was not infected with a craving for opium, but he discovered incontestable proof of his having been engaged in the sale of the drug. The audacity of the appellant in venturing under such circumstances to remonstrate against the justice of his earlier punishment, is severely censured, and he is now further punished by banishment to the military post-roads to expiate his crime by service upon them. (See *Gazettes* of 22nd April and 11th May.)

(4) The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a long memorial from the Governor-General of the Two Kwang and the Governor of Kwangtung giving a detailed report of the recapture of the town of Chow-kang T'ing on the 28th of March last, which had been taken possession of by banditti five days previously. A detailed account of the operations, with a report of the damage done by these banditti while in possession of the town, having been called for, it is now given at great length. The details are uninteresting, and may be summarised in a few words. On receipt of the news of the invasion and occupation of the town, large bodies of troops were sent to eject them, the sub-Prefect of the town having already called out the train-band and

exhorted the people to defend their property. On finding this determined resistance shown them, the banditti retired to an empty space in the northern part of the town and took up their position there. Here the troops found them on their arrival, and a fight ensued which resulted in the utter discomfiture of the enemy, more than 40 of whom were killed on the spot and 71 taken prisoners. Those who took to flight were suddenly confronted by troops concealed without the walls, and 30 more were killed by them and 36 prisoners taken, giving a total of 71 killed in action and 107 prisoners, 51 one of whom died from their wounds, and the remainder were summarily executed. Numerous arrests were subsequently made, amongst them the bandit chief, from whom a full confession was obtained, and he, with the other captives were summarily executed after their depositions had been taken, their heads being exposed on poles. The memorial concludes with suggestions as to the penalties to be inflicted upon the officers who are responsible for having allowed the invasion to take place.

September 13th.—(1) A decree directing the dismissal of an expectant Prefect, a Magistrate, and an expectant sub-Prefect, who have been denounced for incapacity or other shortcomings by Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu.

(2) Wên K'i 文啟 is appointed Prefect of T'ung-chow in Shênsi.

(3) A decree. Some time since, in consequence of the comparatively grievous nature of the calamity that befel the provinces of Shansi and Honan, as well as Ho-kien and other prefectures of Chihli, We instructed the high authorities of the provinces in question to ascertain by enquiry the propriety of remitting the land tax for the latter half of the financial year in those departments and districts, and their immediate neighbourhood, in which the famine was an accomplished fact. T'uh Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, in obedience to this decree, has now sent in a report requesting the remission of taxes altogether in some places and an extension of time for payment in others. The decree then proceeds to enumerate these places, with the concessions granted to each. The list occupies over thirty pages of the *Gazette*.

(4) The Court of Censors report that a petition has been presented by one Chang Ts'ing, a literary graduate residing in the Kiang-lu district in Hupeh, who complains that his son and nephew were robbed of their horses while out riding, by a gang of local bullies who had formed themselves into a brotherhood for the perpetration of acts of villainy, and were compelled to redeem them by a monetary payment. Subsequent to this his mother incurred the enmity of one of the members of the fraternity who had seduced the wife of a kinsman and was detected by his mother. The seducer, accompanied by a number of his associates, visited appellant's house, and after having reviled and abused his mother, threw her to the ground, and kicked her in the stomach with such violence that she died. The outraged husband of the woman that was seduced, drowned himself in his rage and mortification. The petition closes with the usual story of numerous appeals at one court and another, of interminable delay, and repeated failures, driving the petitioner at last to bring his wrongs to head-quarters. —Referred as usual.

(5) The same Court report the receipt of another petition of a similar nature from one Lan Chung-yung. a military graduate residing in the Hai-têng district in Fuh-kien. He complains that he incurred the enmity of certain kinsmen in consequence of a lawsuit which he prosecuted against them. That on the gathering of the members of the clan in the Ancestral Hall at the commencement of the year, this kinsman directed his sons, who were supported by more than a hundred others, to seize appellant and his brother and gouge out their eyes. A complaint was lodged at the Magistracy, and the perpetrators of this outrage were arrested, but they bribed the authority to let them go. They then came to appellant's house with a number of villains whom they had engaged, and made an attack upon it. Appellant's uncle was killed while trying to defend his property, and an aged relative was kicked to death. Appeal for justice was in vain, and application at the higher courts met with no attention.

September 14th.—(1) A decree expressing the Imperial regrets at the intelligence of the death of Kiang Ning-hio, late Judge of Shênsi, who was recently allowed to vacate his post on the ground of ill-health. The deceased officer had distinguished himself in a military capacity in the provinces of Hupeh, Kiangsi, Anhwei, and Kansuh, and rose from the rank of Magistrate to the position he lately held, displaying throughout his career energy in the performance of his duties and a capacity for securing the actual accomplishment of the measures he undertook. The proper Board are directed to award him the posthumous honors allotted to those who have died after a distinguished military career.

(2) A long memorial from Li Hung-chang reporting the result of an investigation into certain charges of mal-administration of famine relief and inaccuracy of returns brought against the Magistrate of Ts'ang Chow and others, resulting in the exoneration of the above named official from all blame. He suggests, however, that a police master under this Magistrate, whose reputation has been discovered by the investigation to be far from good, shall be cashiered. —Rescript : Noted.

(3) Postscript memorial from Wên Kôh, Governor of Shantung, reporting on the condition of the crops in his province. At the commencement of the summer the alternations of rain and sunshine may be said to have been seasonable, but there was a long interval of dry weather during the month of July, which caused great anxiety to the farmers. Prayers for rain were offered by memorialist, who also sent an officer for water from the "Dragon's Cave," and his intercessions resulted in a steady and copious downpour, which saved the crops. The corn being now in ear, and a good harvest confidently expected, the gruel kitchens at Tê-chow will be closed in August to all but the aged, the sick, and women and children, as the harvest will then be in process of gathering, and the able bodied can shift for themselves. A grant of 400 piculs of rice has been made to the troops at Tê-chow, as it has been impossible to give them their pay in full and they are in great distress and want. Reports just received from Lan-shan and nine other districts, announce the passage over the country of flights of locusts travelling in a north-westerly direction. They were scared off the ground as soon as they alighted and the few that settled were immediately destroyed.

(4) Shao Hêng-yü, Governor of Hunan, reports the result of an investigation into a case of fraudulent assumption of rank and uniform by a military officer. Kan Yuan-tsan, a *show pei* or second captain, who had enlisted as a soldier in Shênsi, and had been promoted for services in that province, obtained leave of absence and returned to Tz'e-li Hien, his native place. In order to give himself a little more importance amongst his neighbours, he assumed on his return a button of the 2nd grade, and gave out that he was a colonel with a peacock's feather decoration. Having occasion to come before the Magistrate as a principal in a lawsuit regarding some land, that functionary was led to suspect that the title and rank he had arrogated to himself were not genuine, and enquiry in certain quarters confirmed his suspicions. There is a law (例) to the effect that civil or military officers wearing official hats with a button of a higher grade than that to which they belong, shall be punished in the manner provided by statute(律), which statute declares that the unauthorised assumption of uniform or insignia of rank shall be punished by the infliction of 100 blows and deprivation of office. Kan Yuan-tsan having been guilty of assuming this rank for no other purpose than self-glorification, and having already been cashiered, has been spared the additional punishment of correction with the bamboo.

September 15th.—(1) A decree referring to a case of burglary and murder reported some time since from Kirin, in which the military officer charged with the arrest of the criminals was denounced by the Governor for getting hold of the wrong persons, and was temporarily cashiered. The son of the woman upon whose house the burglary was committed, has now sent an agent with a petition to the Court of Censors bringing serious charges against the Governor in connection with this case and impeaching that officer's veracity. A special commission, consisting of two officers, Ch'ung K'i and Fêng Yü, is nominated to investigate these charges with all possible despatch.

(2) A decree ordering the dismissal of one Mao, Commissary in the town of Chamdo in anterior Tibet. The inhabitants of Jaya and Chamdo took to fighting, and instead of putting a stop to it at once, he applied for troops in the most hasty and ill advised manner, hoping to gain some military distinction thereby. He further levied a discount of twenty per cent. upon the pay of these troops, for alleged expenses of transport, and compelled them to sign a bond accepting this reduction. Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Szech'wan, is to send an officer at once to replace him, to make further enquiries about the application of the discount levied by the late Commissary, and ascertain what other acts of a fraudulent and improper character he may have committed.

(3) Wu Tsang-ch'êng, late Director-General of the Foochow Arsenal, reports his assumption of the acting duties of Governor of Fuhkien.

(4) Pao Hêng, who had been holding the above appointment previous to his nomination to the post of Financial Commissioner in Shansi, reports having given over the seals and paraphernalia of office to Wu Tsang-ch'êng.

(5) Kwang K'êh, Tartar General of Shênsi, and his deputy the Lieutenant-General, appeal once more to His Majesty on the subject of the arrears of pay due to the troops under their command at Singan. In reply to a memorial on the subject in the earlier part of the year (see *Gazette* of 13th May,) the Governor of Shênsi was directed to consider in what manner he could best meet this demand out of the funds at his disposal. Memorialists accordingly wrote to the Governor forwarding him the Rescript to their memorial and begging that he would give due effect to the instructions conveyed thereby. At the expiration of two months, the Governor replied stating that in consequence of last year's drought, the land tax had long since ceased to be levied, and contributions from other provinces came in with such exceeding irregularity, in spite of remonstrances and appeals for despatch, that the treasury had recently become quite empty and not a *cash* of receipts was coming in. Under these circumstances, after careful consideration he had come to the conclusion that he was positively unable to allot any funds to the troops. Memorialists, whose duties are of a military nature, are not thoroughly acquainted with the state of the treasury [or the conditions by which it is affected], but they do know that when they see with their own eyes the unwonted poverty and misery of the Manchu troops under their command they are moved by feelings of the deepest commiseration, and if something is not speedily done for their rescue and relief, the whole body will very possibly die from starvation. The Governor has been in Shênsi for many years, and ought to be well aware of the misery that is here dilated upon; how then can he endure passively to regard the distress of the troops? It may no doubt be true that his treasury is, as he says, empty; but as rain has now providentially fallen and a good harvest is anticipated, memoralists imagine that taxation will soon once more commence, so that any funds at present deposited in the treasury might be drawn upon to rescue the soldiers from this state of misery. Memorialist Kwang K'êh having been transferred to Hangchow, it will be the duty of the newly appointed Tartar General to consult with his Lieutenant and the Governor on this matter, and they will of course report to His Majesty when a course of action has been decided upon. Rescript: Noted.

September 16th.—(1) A decree acknowledging the report of Wên Hwei and Wêng T'ung-ho, the officers appointed to hold an enquiry into the circumstances of the sudden death at the Board of Punishments of one of the parties in a suit, after having been beaten upon the mouth. They find that the soldier Wên Jui, the deceased, having obstinately refused to appear when summoned by the Court, was, for his contumacy, beaten upon the mouth and died directly afterwards. Enquiry elicited the fact that death was caused, not by any illegal mode of correction, but by suffocation arising from an excess of phlegm. Be that as it may, the Secretaries conducting the case should have shown some leniency towards a sick man, and in beating him on the mouth as they did, displayed a want of due care and attention. Let Ki Shun and Fêng Wei-yin be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

(2) Memorial from Kwang Show, President of the Board of Punishments, and others, submitting the penalties they have determined should be inflicted upon the Governor of Ch'ahar and other officers for their misstatements in connection with the temporary escape of a convict condemned to serve on the military post roads. (See *Gazette* of 1st September.)

(3) Memorial from the Superintending officers of the Imperial Mausolea requesting instructions on a certain matter. A communication has been received from the officers in charge of the works in connection with the Mausoleum of the late Emperor, stating that the shrine for the reception of the Buddhistic image in the two storied building flanking the Lung Ngên Tien on its eastern side, with the table and press belonging thereto, have been completed according to the specifications and estimates agreed upon, but they could find no precedent amongst the documents connected with the preparation of the Mausoleum of the Emperor Hien Fêng to guide them as to whom to apply for the copper gilt fastenings to doors, title boards, scrolls, and other appendages to be placed in the chamber. The memorialists find on referring to the archives that in the year 1866, when the Dalai Lama despatched a *k'an pu*, or abbot, with offerings to Peking, the President of the Mongolian Superintendency, a Vice-President, and a *Hut'uhk'tu* were sent with them to the Mausoleum of the Emperor Hien Fêng, where the copper gilt images of Buddha, 17 in number, were reverently placed in the Buddhist chamber, and 38 pictures were suspended in the Lung Fo Sze, the Letter and *Hata* being burnt. A year later, the Office of Imperial Manufactories wrote to say that the copper gilt

fastenings, boards, etc., to be placed upon the shrines and presses for the Buddhistic images, would be applied for by them from the Imperial stores. Memorialists therefore propose to adopt the same course upon the present occasion.—Rescript: Let the proper yamên take note.

September 17th.—(Court Circular) Yang Yü-k'o, General of the Kao-chow Brigade in Kwangtung, paid his respects upon arrival in Peking and had audience the same day. [Note.—The name of this officer will be familiar to many in connection with the investigation into the Yünnan outrage.]

(1) A decree appointing Sü Kêng-shên to the post of Director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship.

(2) The appointment of Ming Sün, Superintendent of the Imperial manufactories at Nanking, is renewed for another term.

(3) A decree consenting to an application from the Governor-General Li Hung-chang that the official biography of Han Chao, formerly acting Governor of Kwei-chow, who has recently died at his home in Chihli, shall be compiled by the State Historiographer's Office.

(4) Memorial from the Censor Tung Tsung-han on the subject of administration. Since the visitation of famine and dearth in various provinces of the Empire, numerous officials have addressed His Majesty on the subject of purification of the judicial system, and His Majesty has never failed to consent to give orders for the adoption of their suggestions. Failure to achieve the purification desired is to be attributed to the fact that the right sort of men are not employed as Magistrates of departments or districts. Litigation and imprisonment must in the first instance originate in the Magistrate's yamên, and were he a man of the right stamp he would give a prompt hearing to any complaint that came before him, and decide it in an equitable manner, thus sparing the witnesses involved in the lawsuit the hardship and inconvenience of protracted waiting and the oppressive exactions that this would involve. Unfortunately, the bent of each Magistrate's mind is upon his private gain, and he has not the interest of the people at heart. The ordinary cases that come before him are looked upon as trivial, and he lays them aside, forgetting what he may consider trivial are matters of deep importance to the persons concerned. An official underling is feared by the peasantry as much as a tiger, and when they are drawn into litigation the men cease their husbandry and the women abandon the loom in the fear which seizes on them all. Each day that the settlement of the case is prolonged leaves the whole household a prey to anxiety, while the officials whose duty it is to protect them refuse, in their perfunctory easy-going style, to try to adjust their wrongs. The silent victims of this species of injustice throughout the Empire may be counted by tens of thousands. Amongst the numerous acts of injustice perpetrated, whether in the collection of land tax, exaction of illegal fees, or otherwise, there is nothing in which abuse is more rampant than the system that prevails at *lekin* barriers, which are regarded by superiors and inferiors alike as a source of advantage or of gain. Articles of food or household utensils carried by the people, and even the products of household industry, are taxed on a hundred pretexts, and the slightest objections that are offered are visited with blows and imprisonment. The people gulp down their hatred and are silent in their grief, having nowhere to complain, while the *weiyuan* fills his purse at their expense and gets credit for capacity and ability. The memorial concludes with an appeal to His Majesty to give orders for a thorough and genuine reform in the matters complained of.

(5) The Director-General of the Yellow River reports that the dangers attendant upon the sudden rise in the waters of the Yellow River and the streams by which it is fed have been satisfactorily overcome.

(6) Wên Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transport, similarly reports the termination, without mishap, of the period of the summer freshets in the Grand Canal.

September 18th.—(1) A decree. Mei K'i-chao reports the issue of operations against certain bad characters inhabiting an island in his jurisdiction, the capture of the ringleader and others of the gang, and the punishment that has been severally inflicted upon them. One Kin K'i-lan, a bad character and a [notorious] criminal, residing on the island of Ta K'ü-shan in the jurisdiction of Ting-hai, in the province of Chêhkiang, having resisted the survey and measurement of his land, the boundaries of which he refused to point out, the sub-Prefect under whose jurisdiction the island was, went with a force to suppress the rising he had created and arrest him. He then had the audacity to attack and do violence to these troops, joining forces with certain pirates and opposing the advance of the troops from a position he had taken up in the hills. Hwang Shao-ch'un, provincial Commander-in-chief, then sent a detachment under the command

of Brigade-General Kwoh Ting-yu, who went down with them and his own brigade to attack the insurgents. A number of these were killed, the ringleader Kin K'i-lan was captured alive and order finally restored. The action taken may be considered prompt and satisfactory, and We hereby command Mei K'i-hao to instruct the Taotai of Ningpo to extract from [the ringleader] a full and accurate confession of his crime, after which he will inflict the full penalty of the law upon him. He will at the same time instruct the sub-Prefect of Ting-hai to afford comfort and solace to the well-disposed of the inhabitants, and make fit and proper arrangements for the survey of the land for taxation. Let a button of the third grade be bestowed upon Ch'eng Pang-kan, sub-Prefect of T'ai-chou, and Chang K'üan-ying, expectant sub-Prefect, who have displayed energy on this occasion; and let Hung T'ing-fan, Lieutenant of the Ting-hai garrison, with Wu T'ing-wei, military *Siu-ts'ai*, who lost their lives in the fray, be committed to the Board for the determination of the marks of compassion which the law allots them.

(2) Memorial from Ts'üan Ts'ing and Shang Tsung-jui, principal and secondary superintendent respectively of the Customs and octroi of Peking, forwarding a return of the duties collected by them during their year of office. In announcing a large deficit on the supplementary assessment, they explain that this is attributable to the falling off in trade consequent upon the famine in the Northern provinces which has caused great depression and entailed serious loss of capital. It follows that the source of supplies being stopped, revenue receipts were correspondingly diminished, and this diminution was further aggravated by the cessation of all distilling of spirits, one of the great tax paying staples, while no revenue is derived from foreign goods, which pay duty at Tientsin. Another circumstance that has contributed to the depression is the succession of heavy rains at the close of the summer, which rendered the roads impassable to carts and reduced the daily receipts to ten or twenty taels, the smallest amount that has been taken for some years past. During the twelve months ending on the 2nd of the 8th moon, the following amounts were collected :—

Regular Assessment	Tls. 102,187
Supplementary do.	,, 63,987
Making a total of	Tls. 166,174

which is Tls. 148,789 short on the supplementary assessment. The memorialist Ts'üan Ts'ing begs further to report that as his left eye is troubling him he has applied for a month's leave.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider the subject of the deficiencies reported by Ts'üan Ts'ing and his colleague, and memorialise thereon.

(3) In a separate memorial the above officers submit a return of duties on foreign opium collected by them during their period of office. They amount in all to Tls. 8,334 to which has to be added a further sum of Tls. 259 for maintenance money. There is a balance of Tls. 18 on the fines and confiscation account.

September 19th.—(1) A decree granting permission to Têng Yu-tê, General of the Chao T'ung brigade in Yünnan, to vacate his post on the ground of ill-health.

(2) A decree directing Chang Tsung-lung, General of the T'êng Yüeh (Momein) brigade in Yünnan, to proceed at once to his post, the Governor of the province having complained of his dilatoriness in taking up his appointment.

(3) Sü Ch'ang 續昌 is appointed Intendant of the Kiu Shan Hai circuit in Fêng-t'ieu, and Yü K'un 裕昆 is to succeed him as Intendant of the Pa Ch'ang circuit in Chihli.

(4) A decree expressing the Imperial regrets at the intelligence of the death of Li Ming-hwei, General of the Lin Yuan brigade in Yünnan, who succumbed to the effects of climate after a long and distinguished military career. The posthumous honors awarded to Provincial Commanders-in-chief who have achieved a brilliant reputation are to be accorded to him, and memorial temples are to be erected to him in his native place and at the scene of his military exploits. Yang Ch'ang-ch'un 楊長春 is to succeed him.

(5) An apologetic memorial from Mei K'i-chao, Governor of Chêkiang and the Superintendent of the Imperial manufactories, who have been severely called to account in an Imperial decree for their protracted delay in the completion of an order for 5,000 catties of velvet and velvet cord for the Imperial carriage trappings, in the face of repeated applications for them from the Yamên concerned in this matter. The memorialists admit the receipt of repeated demands for the completion of this order, and remind His Majesty that they had applied for permission to purchase the

materials requisite for the manufacture of the articles at the prices ruling this year, and, this having been obtained, they were proceeding to put the work in hand when orders came from the Board of Works for an immediate supply of silk, satin, and other materials for use at the Mausolea of Their late Majesties the Emperor and Empress, and this last demand being of the greater moment, the first was made subservient to it. On reference to the Financial Commissioner, that officer stated that the funds for the purchase of the requisite materials had to be drawn from the land-tax, but unfortunately the revenue from this source was in a far from flourishing condition, the exchequer being, into the bargain, much strained just at that time from the necessity for forwarding the third instalment of the contingent for the capital, and contributions to the famine provinces, with other heavy charges. Under the pressure of this indescribable embarrassment, the utmost it was in the power of the Treasurer to do was to find funds for the completion of one of the orders, and preference was given to the most important, Tls. 30,000 being provided at the cost of strenuous effort. Positive orders will now be given for the appropriation of Tls. 30,000 more for the purchase of materials for the execution of the first order, and as the Board have not replied to an application from the memorialists for permission to purchase these materials at the present rates, they must, in view of the urgency of the case, take upon themselves to do so without waiting for this permission.—Rescript: Noted.

(6) Yü Lu, Governor of An-hwei, reports that, it having occurred to him that Ta-t'ung in that province being the centre of the salt trade and a place of great commercial activity, it was right that contributions for the famine fund should be set on foot there, directed the head of the salt office at that place, one Hwang Tsu-lo by name, to set the contributions on foot. His mother having heard of the duty that was entrusted to her son, addressed the following words to him: "Our family for generations past have been the recipients of our country's bounty, and I, now 74 years of age, little thought that the calamitous drought in Shansi would have reached such a stage as this. You having now been honored with a commission to organise a contribution agency, must be the first to set an example, or how will you be in a position to exhort and admonish others to come forward with subscriptions? My family having always acted with strict official integrity, have been able to put by much. Do you therefore sell my clothes and trinkets that I may show to the utmost the sincerity of my gratitude and compassion." The son did as his mother told him, and was enabled in consequence to realise Tls. 1,000, which he begged might be added to the Shansi fund. His mother directed him not to apply for any honorary reward, as his deceased father late Director General of the Yellow River, had already been invested with a posthumous patent of rank, but memorialist considered that it would not be right to refrain from bringing to His Majesty's notice so laudable an act of charity. He suggests that a memorial structure be erected to the mother and a complimentary tablet with the usual inscription be granted to her.—Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.

September 20th.—(1) The Governor-General of Min Cheh and the Acting-Governor of Fuhkien, report the arrival of three distressed Lewchewans from Canton, who had been wrecked on the coast of Kwantung, and sent on to the Governor-General of that province. According to their own statement, they had started from Napa in Lewchew in a small vessel laden with tea, salt, thread, flour, and seaweed, for one of the smaller islands of the archipelago, and had been blown out into the open sea during a gale they encountered, which drove them on the Kwangtung coast, where their boat struck upon a rock and broke up. They swam ashore, and were kindly treated by the authorities, who sent them on overland to Canton. Two of their number died on the journey and were buried at the place of their decease, and the three survivors were sent on by steamer to Foochow. The usual allowance of rations has been served out to them, and an opportunity will be found of sending them back to their own country.

(2) Tso Tsung-t'ang reports the successful results of a search for the remains of Ch'ang Ts'ing and Ming Sü, former Military-Governors of Ili, the traces of which had been lost since the capture of the town by the rebels. A captain in the army was sent to Ili by the present Commander-in-chief at Urumtsi, to make private enquiries, and he now reports that he succeeded in obtaining information pointing to a vegetable garden attached to a certain temple as the spot in which the remains of Chang Ts'ing, were deposited at the time of his death; and on turning up the earth an imperfect skeleton was found from which all the flesh had decayed. He also learned upon enquiry in the town of

Ili, that Ming Sü, when the town fell into the hands of the rebels, had ordered his woman servant to collect the barrels of gunpowder that remained, and after telling his two sons to try and make their escape, blew himself up with his wife. The two sons, loth to leave their parents, were destroyed in the fire that the explosion caused. The commandant of the force subsequently caused scarch to be made amongst the ruins of the building, and all the bones that could be found were collected and hurriedly buried together, as it was impossible to sort them, in a spot within the walls which was pointed out to the captain, who placed them in a box and brought them with the remains of Ch'ang Ts'ing to Urumtsi, from whence they were sent on to Su-chow with the coffin of Ying Han, late Military Governor of the former place. The memorialist having no documents with him at his temporary abode by which he can discover to what particular banner the deceased officers severally belonged, or what was the maiden name of Ming Sü's wife or the names of his two sons, begs that His Majesty will cause the relatives of these persons to be instructed to take charge of the several remains upon their arrival at the place in which their respective banners are located. (See *Gazette* of 7th September.)

September 21st.—(Court Circular.) Li Wei-shu, General of the Yu Kiang brigade in Kwangsi, presented his respects and had audience.

(1) A decree ordering further appropriations of millet for the two principal relief agencies in Peking and the Lu-kow-hiao establishment.

No other documents of importance.

September 22nd.—(1) P'êng Kiu-yü, Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office, is permitted to retire on the ground of ill-health.

(2) The Privy Cabinet Office have transmitted a verbal decree from His Majesty to the effect that the winter uniform hat will be commenced to be worn on the 1st October.

(3) Memorial from Wu Tsan-ch'eng reporting that he has sent an officer with the seals of the provincial Director of education to T'aiwan. On the representation of Shên Pao-chêng some four years ago, during his tenure of office as Governor of Fuhkien, it was decreed that the Governor of Fuhkien should preside at the biennial examinations in Taiwan, instead of the Taotai, who had hitherto done so. This being one of the years in which civil and military examinations have to be held in Formosa, memorialist was making preparations to cross over to T'aiwan when he received a communication from the Tsung-li Yamên informing him that the Board had decided to adopt a recent suggestion of Ting Jih-ch'ang, the late Governor, that the Taotai of Formosa should once more undertake the superintendence of the examinations, and that His Majesty had been pleased to sanction the arrangement. The Taotai would therefore conduct these examination in future, but all communications to the Board would come to the Governor.

(4) The Governor of Honan requests that the Magistrate of the Lu-she district in that province may be cashiered and placed on his trial, with a view to ascertaining whether or no he has been guilty of fraud in connection with the distribution of famine relief. He has already been suspended in consequence of certain irregularities committed by him, and there is reason to suspect that there is grave misconduct in the background.

(5) The same officer reports that a compiler of the Han-lin, who had gone to Honan on leave to attend to some domestic business, and had been detained to assist in the work of distribution of relief, is now about to return to Peking and resume his proper duties, there being no further occasion for his services.

September 23rd.—(1) A decree announcing the following transfers consequent upon the retirement notified in yesterday's *Gazette*. Senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office, T'ung Hwa 童華. Junior Vice-President of the same Board, Hwang Cho 黃倬. Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, Fêng Yü-k'i 馮譽驥. Senior Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies, Si Tze-hung 龔自閎.

(2) A Decree. We have received the following command from Their Majesties the Empresses :—"Tsai P'ei, the son of the Prince of Fow, being now dead, let Tsai K'i, the son of Yi Chan change his name to Tsai Chu and become the heir to the title of the Prince of Fow."

(3) The Governor of Honan solicits a memorial board for the Temple to the God of War in the prefectural city of Hwai-ts'ing, the deity of which has manifested itself in answer to prayers for rain. This is not by any means the first occasion upon which the divine interposition of this deity has been exercised. The topographical history of the prefecture records many instances of the kind which were recognised by the Emperor Kien Lung who gave orders for

the repair of the temple and presented a memorial board. — Granted by decree earlier issued.

(4) The same officer reports the receipt of a sum of Tls. 10,000 for famine relief, which Their Majesties had directed the Office of the Imperial Household to forward some time since.

(5) The same officer reports the capture of the leader of a gang of banditti, and the rescue of three women whom he had kidnapped. The robber chief on being brought before him deposed that he was a native of the K'ao-ch'eng district, and was a vagabond by calling. One Kao, a famine refugee, having come with his family to the place in which he lived, he determined to kidnap one of them for a wife, and to this end called five friends to his aid, who dressed themselves up as soldiers, and entered the man Kao's house on a pretext of searching his premises under official authority. He carried off three women, one of whom he appropriated for his wife. The women were then summoned and corroborated his story, thus placing the fact of his guilt beyond doubt. He was summarily executed, and his head exposed at the scene of his crime, while the women were provided with money by the famine agency, and told to find their way to their homes.

(6) Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szech'wan, requests permission to take away the buttons of certain district Magistrates who are in arrear with the land tax of their respective districts, and show no disposition to make good their deficits. They will be given a certain time to pay, and will be further proceeded against if the limit is exceeded.

September 24th.—(Court Circular.) Tsêng Ki-tsêh (the Marquis Tsêng) solicited his parting instructions on proceeding abroad, and had audience of leave.

(1) Postscript memorial by Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, bringing to His Majesty's notice the exceptionally charitable and benevolent disposition of the gentry and higher classes in his province, as illustrated in the various ways that subscriptions were raised for the famine fund in Honan. Every possible method was resorted to. In the first instance *pro rata* contributions were levied upon houses and land, and memorialist being of opinion that the merit of charity to one's neighbour consists in a willing offering out of the superfluity at a man's command, and that exhortations to be magnanimous should not savour of compulsion or menace, [left the method of contribution to the ingenuity of the donors] with the result that various devices were speedily resorted to. Some sold pictures of the "iron man," or of the "precious pagoda," an emblem of meritorious acts, rising higher and higher as each good deed is done, while others placed wooden boxes or tubs in different places for the receipt of subscriptions. The cities of Soochow, Shanghai and Yangchow were eminently conspicuous for their efforts in this direction, but the fame of their doings soon got noised abroad and the other prefectural and district towns readily answered the call for aid, the charitable gentry of Chêkiang flocking to the front with offerings varying from a few hundred *cash* to several tens of thousands. Those who were poor gave their stipends, and the womenfolk contributed their own needlework, some going so far as to break up their head ornaments and drop them into the receiving boxes. The proceeds of the sale of books, pictures, and ornamental writing were freely given, as well as medicines, pills, and plasters. There was nothing, in fact, that did not come under contribution. Memorialist being a native of Honan, all contributions sent forward to that province were reported to him, and he wrote to the various authorities along the line of route, giving orders for their safe convey. The total amount thus raised between the months of November, 1877, and September, 1878, was Tls. 240,000, exclusive of various contributions sent privately by the donors themselves, and subscriptions continue to flow in without intermission. The memorial concludes with a list of the names of the principal contributors, on whose behalf the Governor of Honan will apply for honorary rewards in due course of time.—Rescript: Noted.

(2) Memorial by the same officer reporting the result of an investigation into the case of Tsêng Shao-hün, Magistrate in Kiangsu, who had appealed to the Censorate against his dismissal on a charge of being infected with the vice of opium smoking. The cashiered officer was sent to the province by the Court of Censors, and handed over to the Prefect of Soochow, who placed him under strict surveillance for three days and nights, and found that he had no craving for opium. The memorialist then had the man brought before himself, and set constables to watch him in turns for a further space of three days, with the same result. A letter written by the ex-Magistrate that had been found amongst his papers was then put in by the Financial Commissioner, in which were the following words:—

"I have not yet been able to manage the sale of the Tai-chow opium." The Commissioner explained that as the possession of opium for sale by a Government officer was so contrary to the rules of the public service, he thought it right to send in this autograph letter and request that the matter might be looked into. The memorialist here goes on to observe that since the Governor-General and himself had commenced to enforce with rigour the existing prohibitions against the consumption of opium by Government officials and soldiers, several thousand establishments sprung up for the sale of antidotes, and a certain white medicine was sold by foreigners which would check the craving in a few, irrespective of the length of time that it had existed and however intense it might be. The fact of proof existing that Tsêng Shao-hün had sold opium was sufficient to warrant the assumption that he also smoked it, and it was quite possible that since his dismissal he had taken one of the remedies alluded to above and cured himself of the habit. In his protest to the Censorate he appealed to an authority granted in the 3rd year of Yung Chêng (1726), under which all officials between the rank of Magistrate and Taotai are permitted to appeal to the Censorate in the event of their having suffered an injustice, and the Censorate is under an obligation to represent the matter to the Throne. Having been instructed to enquire into the general conduct and history of the ex-Magistrate, the memorialist has done so, and finds undoubted testimony, direct and indirect, of the viciousness and depravity of his character. He cannot in any way screen him or conceal his faults, and it is his bounden duty to lay the true state of the case before His Majesty. (For decree see *Gazette* of September 12th.)

September 25th.—(1) A decree announcing the following appointments:—Senior Deputy Supervisor of Instruction, Pao Ting 寶廷; Junior Deputy Supervisor of Instruction, Kwei Hêng 貴恒; Censors of the Shantung, Fohkien, and Kiangnan circuit respectively, Ch'ung Hing 崇興, Wên King 文敬, and Chên Po-yuan 鄭溥元.

(2) With the exception of two short memorials on matters of official routine, the remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a voluminous report from the acting Governor of Shêng-king and his colleague of the result of an investigation into a case of unlawful and malicious arrest of certain innocent persons by officials in that province. The story, shorn of its introduction, in which numerous decrees and official reports are quoted, is told as follows:—Ki Siang is a Manchu captain residing in the K'ai-yuan district, and Sung Shang-tê is a soldier in the same district who was selected by the Magistrate to act as sergeant in the force known as the *pu-tao-ying*, or force for the capture of banditti. These two persons had long been acquainted and were on the best of terms with each other. Yên Tê-fu is a shopkeeper in the same district, whose niece lived with him. The niece was betrothed to a man called Lu, but he had broken off the engagement in consequence of her seduction by a man in the same village called Chang Chung-hoh, with whom she had eloped, but was found and taken back. Chang then wished to take her as his concubine, and made a proposal for her to her uncle, but he would not hear of it, and the result was a feud between the two. Four years ago, Sung Shang-tê was sent on an expedition after some banditti, in the course of which he managed to obtain large sums in ready money and promissory notes from certain individuals against whom there was a suspicion, in return for their release. Previous to this, K'i Siang, the Manchu Captain, was lying sick at an inn in K'ai-yang, where he was visited by Chang Chung-ho, who told him of his disappointment in the matter of Yên Tê-fu's niece and begged him to intercede with the uncle. He did so, but met with a distinct refusal and was rebuked for the impropriety of his suggestion. This so annoyed him that he determined to avenge himself by getting up a charge of harbouring thieves against Yên Tê-fu. At this stage Sung Shang-tê, who was on his way back, arrived at the inn, and K'i Siang told him that Yên was a harbourer of thieves who ought to be taken up, explaining to Sung his reasons for wishing to do Yên an inquiry. Sung consented to help him, and forthwith made a descent upon Yên's house, arrested him and his servant, and seized a number of articles which he pretended were stolen property. An investigation at the Magistracy established the gross injustice of the charge, and Yên was released on bail, the conduct of his calumniators being at the same time reported to the Governor. They were immediately cashiered, and denounced to the Throne, and by His Majesty's orders proceedings were taken against them which elicited the facts narrated above. After quoting at length the law bearing upon this case, the memorialists propose to

sentence K'i Siang to banishment in perpetuity, and Sung Shang-tê to banishment for three years with a hundred blows of the heavy bamboo. The other offenders are sentenced to mitigated penalties in proportion to the measure of their guilt.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

September 26th—(1) A decree calling for an explanation from Fu Erh-sun, Deputy Lieutenant-General at Hangchow, who is charged by the Tartar General with having assumed the acting duties of Deputy Lieutenant-General at Chap'oo without special sanction from the Throne, thus openly disregarding a constitutional law: and, further, with having used the wrong seal in consequence of his neglect to acquaint himself with the regulations on the subject.

(2) Postscript memorial from Ying Kw'ei, recently appointed Imperial agent at Urga, on the condition of the country through which he passed on his way to his new post. The country inside of the Kalgan pass of the Great Wall was in a fair condition, the weather having been seasonable, but in the grass country some ten or more stages beyond, no rain had fallen during the spring and summer, and there were countless numbers of cattle lying dead beside the road, while the condition of the country was pitiful to behold. After twenty stages or so grass began again to be seen growing close and thick, and round about Urga where there has been no lack of rain, forage is plentiful. As regards the force stationed at Urga, the troops recently arrived from Ch'ahar are raw levies, and quite new to their drill, while they have yet to be inspected and formed into companies, after which they will have to go through a course of drill before they will be of any use. In view of the importance of keeping order in this vast region, the memorialist thought it right to consult with the General at Süan-hua-fu as to the advisability of retaining a portion of the cavalry force at Urga, drafted from this place, whose time has expired, and he has now determined to detain 250 of them for a time, and send back 100 in four detachments in order not to put too great a strain on the accommodation it is possible to afford at the various stages *en route*.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials summarised in earlier decrees.

September 27th.—No documents of importance.

September 28th.—(1) A decree sanctioning the suggestions of the Board of Revenue to whom the question was referred, of the penalties to be inflicted on the Superintendent of Customs at Sha-hu-k'ow, whose receipts fell short by Tls. 150,600 on the supplementary assessment of his station. The penalty for this misdemeanour is deprivation of two steps of commutative rank, with removal to another post, but the officer in question explains that the falling off in receipts was attributable to the stagnation in trade caused by the famine in Shansi and Honau. His offence being of a different nature, therefore, to want of energy in collection and laxity of supervision, his sentence is commuted to deprivation of commutative rank with the bestowal of a limited period within which to make good the amount of his deficit. The amount of surplus assessment he has succeeded in collecting, with the sum saved by him on transport expenses, are to be handed over to the Treasury of the Privy Purse.

(2) The following appointments are announced:—Supervising Censor, Board of Ceremonies, Liu Jui-k'i 劉瑞祺; Pao Shên 寶森 to be appointed to the first vacancy that occurs in the Censorship of the Szech'wan circuit.

(3) A decree consenting to the bestowal of a posthumous title upon Pao Hêng, late Imperial Agent at Hami, and formerly commandant of the forces at Guchen.

(4) A memorial from a Censor on the subject of certain abuses in connection with the promotion and seniority granted to many officials obtaining rank by purchase. The memorial is uninteresting and somewhat unintelligible unless read with the aid of numerous notes explanatory of the technical terms that are employed.

(5) Memorial from the acting Governor of Yünnan applying on behalf of sixteen subprefectures and districts for permission to establish public seminaries or colleges for the advancement of learning, which they propose to make experimental for the space of five years, after which temples in honor of Confucius will be erected, as well as additional examination halls and schools. In giving this application his support, memorialist explains that the expenses in connection with the undertaking will be raised by public subscription; and adds that the districts which are anxious to improve their educational facilities are situated in the South-west of the Empire where the community is a mixture of Chinese and savages who were reclaimed from barbarism some two hundred years ago. Now that warfare is at an end in the province, the

work of reorganisation would be materially aided by the spread of so civilising a power as education; and, as similar privileges have been granted to districts in the province of Fêng-tien, memorialist hopes that the request now proffered may be granted. It is proposed to commence operations in 1880.—Referred to the proper Board.

September 29th.—(Court Circular.) Yang Yü-k'o, General of the Kao-chow Brigade in Kwangtung, had audience of leave, as did also Ts'ing An, Military Assistant Governor at K'obdo.

(1) P'an Tsu-yin 潘祖蔭 is appointed Deputy Director General of the Veritable Record Office.

(2) Memorial by Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, forwarding a return of amounts collected in the provincial capital by the famine contribution agency. The grievous and extensive famine which devastated the province of Shansi for so long a time, and caused so many millions of living souls to wail piteously for food, was met with repeated grants of money from the Imperial purse and numerous appropriations of tribute grain, while the whole official class identified themselves with the benevolent intentions of the Court that welled forth like a never-ending spring, and [came forward nobly], emptying their purses, contributing their salaries, and foregoing their allowances, insomuch that the gasping and wretched sufferers owed their lives to the charity thus displayed. The memorialist knows not how he shall repay the debt of gratitude under which he has been laid by the loyal counsel and assistance offered by so numerous a body. Each generation has instances of national calamity and disaster to record, but never has so striking an instance occurred of the powerful influence exercised by the Court over the hearts and feelings of its officers. Exclusive of the amounts received by the Tientsin collectorate, which have already been reported to His Majesty, memorialist has now the honor to forward a return of the sums collected by the Si-ngan agency up to the 13th of August last, which amount to a total of Tls. 101,278, and 1,500 piculs of grain. Applications for the bestowal of honorary rewards upon all subscribers below the rank of Taotai, will be made in due form by the Governors-General or Governors to whose jurisdiction they respectively belong. The memorialist begs to leave to His Majesty the decision of the manner in which the merits of officials above this rank and metropolitan authorities shall be recognised.

(3) Postscript memorial by the same officer, referring His Majesty to the proposals submitted some time since by Yên King-ming, the Famine Commissioner, and himself for the rigorous enunciation of the existing prohibitions against the cultivation of the poppy. Since that date Li Yung-ts'ing, Compiler of the Han-lin College, has made a complete tour through all the sub-prefectures, departments and districts in the province in the pursuit of investigations connected with the distribution of relief, and took the opportunity of examining the extent of the poppy cultivation at the same time. He states that the enunciation of the prohibition appears to have had a very marked effect, and that the peasantry have evinced in a great degree contrition for the iniquity of which they have heretofore been guilty, the cultivation being at least 60 or 70 per cent. less than it was last year. If due advantage be taken of the present high prices of grain to exhort the people to adopt some other crop, there is fair ground to hope for the completion of a work that is now half done; but if the opportunity that now presents itself be neglected, the task will prove a much more difficult one hereafter. The suggestions of the compiler appear to the memorialist to be most intelligent. An ignorant and benighted peasantry can only be turned back from their accustomed habits by the force of rigorous and heavy penalties, and the plan of confiscating land upon which opium is grown, that has been adopted in Kiangsi, appears to be much dreaded by the people, although the penalty is not excessively oppressive. The memorialist, therefore, proposes to adopt the same system in Shansi, and to make the land thus confiscated the public property of the village or tithing in which it is situated, and awaits His Majesty's consent to the measure before taking steps to give it proper effect.—Granted by Rescript.

(4) Postscript memorial by the same officer. In consequence of the devastating effects of the famine last year, which turned the province into a vast expanse of desert waste, numbers of people from all parts flocked to the provincial capital, and three refuges were there established for their accommodation. The height of the famine over, pestilence ensued, and the occupants of these refuges shared the fate of many others, leaving behind them little children with no one to look to for nurture or support. Grown up children could of course be left in the refuges to take their chance with the rest, and the infants could be cared for in the foundling establishments, but

children in the intermediate stage, between the years of four and twelve, being too old for admission into the foundling and too young to get their food in the refuges, had no alternative but to beg in the streets and utter moans of pain in any ruined house that they could find. Moved by the thought of their piteous condition, which called for prompt attention, the memorialist has established a refuge in the provincial capital for orphans of this description, male or female, who have no relatives upon whom they can depend for support. An old woman is to be engaged as nurse for every ten children, and is to be paid wages at the rate of 1,000 *cash* a month, and a *hoh* or gill, of grain as her daily ration. Each child receive two gills and a half of grain a day, and a cook is provided for their use.

September 30th.—(Court Circular.) T'ê Erh-ts'ing, late commandant of the forces at Tarbagatai, paid his respects at the expiration of his period of mourning, and was received in audience.

(1) A decree directing the metropolitan authorities to make search for two convicts who have escaped from servitude on the military post roads and are supposed to be in hiding at Peking.

(2) The Comptrollers of the Imperial Household report to His Majesty the approaching expiration of the term of service of Ming Hün, Superintendent of Imperial Manufactories at Nanking. By a decree bearing date the 8th moon of the 10th year of Tao Kwang it was enacted that thereafter the office of the Imperial Household should report to His Majesty the expiration of each year of office held by the Superintendents of Imperial Manufactories, and by a decree in the reign of Hien Fêng it was further determined that such period should count from the date of the arrival of the Superintendent at his post, a limit of sixty days from the date of his appointment being allowed for the journey.

(3) The Court of Censors report the receipt of a petition from one Wang Wên-kü, a native of Hupeh, presented by his son, a lad thirteen years of age. The petition was, in substance, as follows :—Petitioner's father who had been elected to the office of *ti-pao* of his tithing, having been called upon to arrest two robbers, father and son, called Lo, incurred the enmity of these individuals, who waylaid petitioner's brother and robbed and slew him. Petitioner's father died shortly afterwards, and they took advantage of the confusion consequent upon his death to attack the house, which they robbed and burnt to the ground, destroying petitioner's father's remains and wounding him and others. Intent upon doing him a mischief as well, they secretly called upon a military officer to seize petitioner and confine him in the department prison, and in the course of his capture he was wounded by the arms they carried. He was then dragged into a case of burglary with which he had nothing to do ; and when the actual offenders were eventually convicted, he was still detained in prison for a long time, the earlier charges against him being left in abeyance. The usual round of the provincial Courts was made, and two years ago, petitioner, despairing of redress for the murder of his brother, appealed to the Office of Gendarmerie in Peking, who referred him once more to his own province. He has now made a last appeal to the Court of Censors.

(4) Also an appeal case reported by the same Office. One Kin Wên-kwang, whose home is near T'ung-chow, complains that his father's house was entered by a thief in the early part of the year. He was discovered by his father and uncle, who called upon the watchman to seize him, whereupon he knocked his head against the wall with such violence that he inflicted injury to his skull and died the following day. His wife admitted that the deceased was an habitual thief and signed a statement to that effect, but subsequently bribed certain clerks in the sub-Prefect's yamên to seize petitioner's brother and put him in custoday, where he was treated with great brutality. Some relatives and neighbours who offered to bail him out were beaten for their pains, and the only result of their efforts was the arrest of petitioner's uncle and father, who died in prison. The younger brother, unable to endure the torture to which he was subjected, made a confession of crimes which he never committed, and now lies hovering between life and death in consequence of the severity of the treatment he had to endure.

October 1st.—(1) Sun Yü-wên 孫毓汶 is appointed Reader of the Han-lin.

(2) A long memorial from Wên Yoh and Wêng T'ung-hoh, the two high officers appointed by His Majesty to investigate the circumstances of the death of one Wên Jui, plaintiff in a civil action, under examination, who was supposed to have succumbed to the effects of a beating upon the mouth. Wên Jui had sued a man called Sieh Ta for non-fulfilment of a contract regarding the price of some jugs he had sold him, and subsequently refused to heed

a summons several times repeated to attend at the Board of Punishments. When he did eventually appear, the officer in charge of the case, a secretary belonging to the Fuhkien department, told the underlings to strike him ten blows on the mouth for his contumacy in disregarding the summons to attend, but before hands had been laid upon him he ordered him to receive an additional twenty blows. Forty were given him altogether, and as soon as he had received his punishment Wên Jui, who was kneeling, began to shake. Some of the underlings helped him upon his feet, but he could not walk, so they set him against the door of the chamber, and then, as he pointed to the ground making signs as though he wished to sit down, they placed him under the verandah. A rattling as of phlegm was heard in his throat, and medicines were given to him, but Wên Jui uttered never a word and shortly died from stoppage of breath. The abové is the account elicited from the secretaries, underlings, and the constable in charge of the deceased. His brother was sent for, and stated that Wên Jui, who had instituted a suit against Sieh Ta in the Fuhkien Court of the Board of Punishments, had just recovered from an illness of twenty days' duration when he appeared in court. He was informed that his brother died in the precincts of the Board, and when he saw the body at the inquest there were marks on the mouth showing that he had been beaten there, and indicating that death was induced by stoppage of breath caused by an obstruction of phlegm, and he had already signed a paper to this effect. Having thus established the manner and circumstances under which deceased met his death, the memorialists proceed to explain at great length the particulars of the suit in which he was engaged, as described by the officers charged with the investigation. The decree acknowledging this report was published in the *Gazette* of the 16th September.

(3) Memorial from Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, applying for two months' sick leave for Hwang Ping-yün, late Brigade-General at Tai-yuan, who was taken ill on his way to Peking where he had been summoned by Imperial decree.—Granted by Rescript.

(4) Postscript memorial from Wu Yuan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu. The Governor of Shantung having written to say that a detachment of 100 soldiers, under a captain and a lieutenant, from the Ts'ing-chow garrison, who were wanted, with their families, to make up the complement at Hangchow, had been sent forward in detachments, memorialist has now to report that the whole of this force arrived within his jurisdiction in due course and were passed on to the next province. Tls. 1,809 have been expended in the provision of boats, carts, and maintenance during the time they were in the province.

October 2nd.—(1) K'i Siu 啟秀 is appointed a chief supervisor of Instruction.

(2) Postscript memorial from Wên Koh, Governor of Shantung. The late Ting T'ing-chên, father of Ting Shan-pao, a notable residing in Wei Hien, who is an expectant secretary of the Grand Secretariat, had saved some Tls. 1,000 or more, which he left instructions to his son to expend in charity after his death. Ting Shan-pao, in fulfilment of his father's last wishes, subscribed money and rice in aid of the sufferers by famine in his district the year before last, and subsequently contributed the Tls. 1,200 that had been left by his father to the same object. The authorities of the district having now applied for permission to erect an honorary portal to the memory of the father, the memorialist prays His Majesty to permit his son to erect the usual structure, for the expenses in connection with which the customary grant of Tls. 30 will be made by the local authorities.—Granted by Rescript.

(3) The same officer brings to the notice of His Majesty another case of a similar nature. Ch'ên Kieh-k'i, a Compiler of the Han-lin, residing in Wei-hien, his native place, who is the son of Ch'ên Kwan-kün, formerly a Grand Secretary, and comes of a family that has long been noted for acts of unostentatious charity, subscribed Tls. 3,000 for relief purposes at the commencement of the distress in his native place. Finding that the suffering became more intense as time went on, and was more than the public funds could cope with, he exhorted the gentry of his district to establish relief agencies, himself setting the example by opening a refuge in the centre of the town, which he supported entirely out of his private funds. It was his habit to go there every day with his grandson and distribute food with his own hands to the applicants for relief, and this he did for six months in succession undeterred by weather and regardless of fatigue. Over 10,000 persons were daily relieved by him, and he was so afraid of courting the bestowal of an honorary reward for his charity that he would allow no one to know what it was costing him pecuniarily. Such earnest devotion to the public welfare and so sincere a love of

philanthropy are rarely to be attained to, and memorialist was informed by all in a position to know that it was entirely owing to his efforts that the people in that district were spared the necessity of wandering elsewhere in search of food and were kept from death by starvation. When the memorialist became aware of the good that was being done by this notable, he instructed the authorities of his district to ascertain the amount that Ch'ên Kieh-tsi had expended, but he refused to give any particulars, on the ground that he had been the recipient of such great benevolence from His Majesty that he was only fulfilling a bounden duty in showing a compassionate interest in the suffering of his fellow townsmen. The Magistrate, however, came to the conclusion that, looking to the numbers of people to whom he daily dispensed rice gruel, not less than something over Tls. 10,000 must have been expended by Ch'ên Kieh-k'i, exclusive of the donation of Tls. 3,000 made in the early stages of the famine. The memorialist would not venture, in spite of Ch'ên Kieh-k'i's genuine reluctance to court a reward, to keep from His Majesty's knowledge so exceptional an instance of charity and benevolence, and it becomes his duty to request His Majesty, out of consideration for the more than thorough manner in which Ch'ên Kieh-k'i has carried out the principles and customs of his house, to bestow upon him a button of the second grade of official rank, and to permit his grandson to be attached to one of the Boards as a Senior Secretary awaiting selection—Granted by Rescript.

October 3rd.—(1) Li Hung-chang requests that the official biography of a distinguished officer may be compiled by the State Historiographer's Office. Han Ch'ao, formerly acting Governor of Kweichow, died at Ch'ang-li Hien, his native place, on the 2nd May, 1878; and his grandson, Han Fang-ping, who drew up his grandfather's testamentary memorial, came to memorialist and begged him to transmit this document for him. Han Ch'ao, who was an unsalaried licentiate of the second grade, (副貢生) succeeded in the year 1843 to the rank of assistant department magistrate, and was selected for service in Kweichow, where he rose to the rank of Taotai by a series of promotions earned by distinguished service. At the end of 1861 a button of the 2nd grade was bestowed upon him by special decree, and he was appointed acting Governor of Kweichow. Hu Lin-yi, Governor of Hupeh, was the first to discover his great bravery and strength of character, which, combined with a masterful and far-seeing mind, entitled him to be called a distinguished General and an upright Statesman. After recounting a number of operations in which he was successfully engaged, the memorialist states that the bravery and power of endurance, combined with an aptitude for enforcing discipline, such as Han Ch'ao possessed, are not to be found in most of China's Generals. During his 20 years' residence in Kweichow, he was present at more than 600 engagements, and on many occasions when the enemy were several tens of thousands strong and he was cut off from all assistance, with no supplies at all, and nearly all his men lying dead or wounded on either side of him, he would, though streaming with blood himself, fight with desperate energy and save the day after all. Hu Lin-yi constantly applied for the bestowal of a responsible post upon him, and Lo Ping-chang, Governor of Hunan, also bore testimony to his purity, integrity and capacity for endurance. As all officials, civil or military, have their merits and achievements recorded when more than usually deserving, as, for instance, Shao Tê, commander-in-chief, and others whose merits are surpassed by those of Han Ch'ao, may not memorialist reverently beseech His Majesty of His goodness to give directions for a record of Han Ch'ao's services to be prepared by the State Historiographer's Office? (Granted by decree of 17th Sept.)

(2) Postscript memorial from the same officer. It is the rule that all Taotais, Prefects, sub-Prefects and Magistrates who shall have been placed on the "expectant" list for meritorious service, shall, whatsoever the nature of this meritorious service, be carefully watched for a year after their arrival in the province, and a true and careful report of the result of this scrutiny be made to His Majesty, and the officer in question be reserved for an important and busy post, or the reverse, according to the capacity he has shown. Memorialist begs now to report that Shêng Süan-hwai, a Taotai with brevet rank of Financial Commissioner, who is down on the list for priority of appointment to the first vacancy, having been a year in the province, the Financial Commissioner and Judge have drawn up a record of his antecedents and official career, which they beg may be submitted to His Majesty. The officer in question is incorrupt, diligent, skilful, and intelligent, and devotes himself to his work with genuine earnestness

and zeal. He is fully capable of undertaking the duties of a busy post, and will therefore be appointed to any vacancy of the kind that may occur.

(3) The same officer, also in a postscript memorial, reports that His Majesty having left to Kün K'i, Superintendent of Customs at Canton, the selection of the form of reward he would prefer to receive in consideration of the contribution of Tls. 10,000 offered by him to the famine fund, that officer has now been requested to state his wishes in this matter. He replies that he had no intention of courting a reward when he made this donation, but as the matter has been referred to His Majesty he would prefer to leave the question of his own reward to the proper Board. As regards the distinctions to which he is entitled under the regulations of the Shansi and Honan famine contribution agencies, he would be glad that buttons and feathers should be bestowed upon his two brothers and his nephew. Memorialist finds that the contribution which would entitle him to the receipt of buttons and feathers for these persons exceeds the amount subscribed by Tls. 1,062, and the superintendent having now made good this deficiency it is hoped that his request may be granted.—Rescript. Let rewards as applied for be transferred, to Kün Sien and the others. Let Kün K'i be committed to the Board for the bestowal of a most distinguished form of reward.

October 4th.—(1) A decree calling upon Li Hung-chang to pay over within the month to the Imperial Equipage Department the sum of Tls. 20,750 due by his province as rent to that department, which at the present moment is in urgent need of funds.

(2) Mei K'i-chao, Governor of Chêkiang, kneeling presents a memorial setting forth how certain pirates and evil characters in a sea-girt island offered resistance to authority and murdered and did violence to officers and soldiers; how troops were despatched for their annihilation and capture; and how the chief conspirator and other ringleaders were taken alive and severally dealt with [as will hereafter be shown.] He would humbly represent that Ta K'ü Shan, in the jurisdiction of Ting-hai, being formerly a waste and uninhabited territory, the occupation of which was not forbidden by explicit prohibition, it has now been taken possession of by numerous settlers and has thus, to all intents and purposes, become civilised. On these grounds, Yang Ch'ang-kün, memorialist's predecessor, solicited permission from His Majesty to apply to this island the law with respect to reclaimed foreshore, and survey the land with a view to registering it for taxation, each holder being supplied with a proper title to his land. On the 13th November, 1875, the Inner Council had the honor to receive the following Imperial Decree:—"Yang Ch'ang-kün in a postscript memorial requests permission to survey the land on Ta K'ü Shan and register it for taxation," etc., etc. Again, in the month of July, 1876, Ch'ên Nai-han, then acting sub-prefect of Ting-hai, reported that "in the matter of the organisation of taxation in Ta K'ü Shan, the inhabitants had, with one exception, gladly sent in returns of the land held by them, but that one Kin K'i-lan, an old offender, who had been guilty in the year 1870 of harbouring certain pirates and resisting their capture by Government troops, some of whom were wounded, had, with his sons, resisted [the innovation] from first to last, and refused to indicate his land for measurement. He had further inflamed the minds of the inhabitants against the measure, with a view to resisting any attempt to arrest him. The sub-Prefect had accordingly to request that troops might be sent to put this insubordination down." Upon this, the late Governor issued a proclamation exhorting the people in emphatic terms [to submit to authority], and at the same time directed the sub-Prefect in question to carry out the necessary arrangements in a fit and proper manner, adding that if Kin K'i-lan and those with him persisted in their resistance and disregard of authority, he would then detach troops to arrest him. When memorialist visited Ningpo last year on his tour of military inspection, he made enquiries on the subject from the Taotai, the Prefect, and Shih Chih-sün, the present sub-Prefect of Ting-hai. They all affirmed that the island of K'ü Shan, standing, as it did, alone in the midst of the outer sea some three or four hundred *li* distant from Ting-hai and Ningpo, was inaccessible except by boat, while the exceptional nature of the winds and tides that prevailed in these waters rendered the voyage a difficult one. The attitude of the miscreant Kin K'i-lan and those with him, moreover, who, while openly subservient, were in reality nothing of the kind, and professed obedience only to offer resistance the next moment, caused so much delay in the execution of the survey that it had not yet been possible to complete it. In reply, memorialist directed them to carry out the necessary arrangements with due care and attention, and not to mar their efficacy

from a desire to use expedition. On the 25th August last, the sub-Prefect of Ting-hai reported that "he had ascertained by enquiry that the only person on Ta K'ü-shan who resisted measurement of their land were Kin K'i-lan and Hia Ta-kin, and his followers—a few families only—whom the former had summoned to his aid; that he had accordingly consulted with the commandant of the Ting-hai garrison, and that officer had consented to detach gunvessels and troops to go with [the sub-Perfect's deputy] to seize these individuals and put down insubordination. But that immediately on the landing of this force on the 17th July, at a place on the island called Tao Tow Ngao, Kin K'i-lan had come forward with a band of followers provided with gongs and banners, and resisted all attempts at capture. The road being nothing but a narrow and secluded hill-path, and the water in the ponds being very deep, it was impossible to form the troops into fighting line, and this miscreant had then the audacity to fire upon them with muskets and howitzers, whereupon his followers emerged from the mountain gorges on every side and advanced upon the soldiers. There was then nothing for it but to engage them then and there, and in the course of the struggle a lieutenant of the right division, Hung T'ing-fang by name, Wu T'ing-hêng, a military graduate, and two soldiers were killed, while fighting vigorously, several officers and soldiers of the various divisions being wounded at the same time. The day was now far advanced and twilight had come on, while the wind and sea were high, and as there was reason to fear that the prestige of the troops would suffer they were withdrawn and returned to the boats. The sub-Prefect had now to apply for reinforcements," &c., &c. Information was further obtained from spies that Kin K'i-lan and his sons, with Hia Ta-kin and those with him, had proceeded to loot certain shops after their encounter with the troops, and had levied exactions from those of the islanders who had taken no part in the fray, making arrangements at the same time with a number of pirates to assist them in digging holes in the paths among the hills wherein they planted stakes to prevent ingress or egress, and aid them in resisting their captors. Jui Chang, Intendant of the Ning, Shao, T'ai, circuit, also sent in a report corroborating the story detailed above. Memorialist being of opinion that as Ta K'ü Shan was a solitary island in the midst of the sea beyond the reach of constituted authority, unless powerful reinforcements were immediately sent forward to exterminate the sedition that was brewing, there was reason to fear that it would terminate disastrously, accordingly took counsel with Hwang Shao-ch'un, provincial commander-in-chief, who consented to send 500 Hunan braves and a gunvessel under his command manned by Cantonese, which belonged to the Hai-mên station, to Ting-hai to co-operate with the local forces. They were sent forward under the charge of Ch'êng Pang-kan, sub-Prefect of T'ai-chow, an officer of considerable military reputation and experience, who happened to be in Ningpo on business at the time. The *Yuan Kai*, steam-vessel, was ordered to cruise in the neighbourhood of the island to prevent the escape of the insurrectionists by sea. Next, a report was received from Kwoh Ting-yu, general in command of the Ting-hai brigade, who stated that he had himself gone with the auxiliary force and 300 of his own men to the scene of operations; and on the 2nd of August Chêng Pang-kan reported that the captains of the various gunvessels [forming the flotilla] had weighed anchor simultaneously on the 19th July, and that he had embarked with his Hunan braves on a steam-vessel, and arrived off Tai Shan on the 20th, where he found that numbers of the well-disposed inhabitants had fled, owing to the exactions and oppression of the insurgents, and learnt that pirates were taking advantage of the occasion to rob and plunder. A victim of an act of piracy having appealed for aid against certain pirates, the sub-Prefect stopped the steamer, lowered a boat, and went in chase of the piratical vessel. Four of the crew were captured alive, numbers were shot who fell into the water, and three unfortunate people were rescued from their captors and a quantity of plunder recovered. The prisoners were handed over to the sub-Prefect of Ting-hai, who elicited from them the fact that they had gone to the island at the invitation of Kin K'i-lan, and as they fully admitted their acts of robbery they were summarily executed. That night the various detachments all reached K'ü Shan, when a council of war was held and the plan of operations decided upon. On the following morning at early dawn the force was landed, but the insurgents had dug up the main and important road, so as to cut off the advance of the troops. A crossing was effected, however, by means of rafts or pontoons, and the force advanced inland, Kin K'i-lan, surrounded by several hundred adherents, emerging meanwhile from his stronghold and advancing to the

attack; his force was drawn up in battle array and poured in bullets like rain, amidst shouts and cries of defiance. Our men were carefully marshalled and advanced in an orderly and dignified manner by three different routes, so as to surround the insurgents [preparatory to] destroying them. Fire was opened simultaneously from howitzer and musket, and sword and lance were employed together; in a few moments one of the leaders of the enemy, bearing a red flag, was killed and numbers of others were taken prisoners and beheaded. The insurgents now began to show signs of not being able to hold their own, and when the steamer opened fire upon them with her big guns, which boomed out with a majestic report the violence of which was something strange to them, they commenced to fall back, fighting as they retreated. Our troops followed them with energy, and while a portion destroyed their stronghold at Pei Yin Ngao, the rest pursued the enemy as far as Cha P'u-mên, where they broke and fled in every direction. At 2 p.m. the troops were recalled, and upon taking count it was found that more than 40 of the insurgents had been killed, 33 banners, 27 foreign muskets and 2 guns, 30 piculs in weight, had been captured, and a number of prisoners taken, making with those killed in the engagement a total of 63. Amongst the prisoners taken was one Kin A-mao, the second son of Kin K'i-lan, who stated that the insurgent leader with the red banner who was killed was called Liu Siao-nang. The prisoners were handed over to the sub-Prefect of Ting-hai, who dealt with them severally after their depositions had been taken. Of the soldiers, 5 were wounded. On the following day the force was again marshalled and sent on a search expedition amongst the hills at Cha P'u Mên, where they captured Kin K'i-lan alive, and he was sent to Ningpo to be dealt with. On the 23rd and 24th, Kin A-mi, the eldest son of the rebel, and Hia Ta-kin were captured and forthwith executed, after they had been duly questioned, and order was then fully restored throughout the island, to the intense satisfaction of the peaceable inhabitants. It was then determined that two gunboats should be left at the island with 100 Hunan braves, to guard the port, keep order, and look for other fugitives, and the remainder were forthwith withdrawn. Such was the sub-Prefect's report of the operations. The memorialist then proceeds to comment upon the ferocious character of Kin K'i-lan, the promoter of all this trouble, whose audacity and utter disregard of the laws are perfectly inexplicable, adding that it is due to the promptitude of Hwang Shao-ch'un, the commander-in-chief, in sending forward auxiliaries, that the majesty of the law has been so fully asserted by the removal of the source of all this trouble. He then offers a tribute of praise to the energy of the sub-Prefect Ch'en Kang-pang, and the expectant Prefect Chang P'u-ying, in command of the Hunan braves, and suggests the propriety of bestowing upon each of these officers a button of the 3rd grade as a reward for their exertions. He also suggests that the usual marks of compassion shall be bestowed upon the two officers killed in the encounter. The memorial concludes with a statement that the Taotai of Ningpo has been directed to elicit a true confession from Kin K'i-lan and then inflict the full penalty of the law upon him.

October 5th.—(1) Mu T'u-shan and Kw'ei Ch'ang, Military Lieutenant-Governor and Deputy Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar respectively, announce the receipt of a report from the officer in charge of the military post station at Chang-kia-k'ow (Kalgan) stating that Mao Lin, late Comptroller of the Imperial Household, and Ts'ing Lin, his brother, late Warden of the Parks and Hunting Grounds, had sent a messenger to him with the following representation:—"We, Mao Lin and Ts'ing Lin, who have by His Majesty's command been dismissed the public service for a certain offence and sent to do service on the military post roads in expiation thereof, arrived at Kalgan in the month of May last and were appointed to do duty at the 13th and 15th stations respectively. We found that the postal service at the stations in question is particularly brisk, and whenever there is any important and pressing business on hand it becomes necessary in every instance to hire additional horses in order to keep pace with the work of the station. We, who have been the favoured recipients of such great bounty from His Majesty, have noticed in the daily execution of our official work, that there is a deficiency of funds to meet the working expenses, with the result that both the officers and soldiers engaged are in a condition of distress and embarrassment. We are therefore willing of our own accord each to contribute the sum of Tls. 2,000 as an aid towards the expenses of the military postal service, and so by this slight effort, comparable only to a drop of water or a grain of sand, 稍剋涓埃 [endeavour to atone for

our past shortcomings.] We would not venture, however, to court the bestowal of any honorary reward for so doing." Memorialists, on searching the records, find that in the month of August, 1876, the Imperial clansman Yi Jung, cashiered Governor of Kirin, having, in consequence of the heavy work of the Burut postal station, requiring funds for the hire of extra horses, himself contributed Tls. 1,500 in aid of the expenses connected with the hire of these animals, the former Governor of Ch'ahar, in accordance with numerous precedents, requested His Majesty to deign to accept the offering and begged for the bestowal of a reward upon the contributor. In reply a decree was received :—"As a special act of grace let Yi Jung be released." On the present occasion the ex-officers Mao Lin and Ts'ing Lin, who were sent to the military post roads to expiate a certain offence committed by them, have shown a capacity for diligence and carefulness in the execution of the duties they are called upon to fulfil. At the present time the funds for military expenditure deposited in memorialist's yamên are small indeed, and there is a present demand for the issue of grants in aid to the officers and soldiers employed at the postal stations as well as for the hire of additional horses and footmen. These ex-officials in coming forward with a contribution of Tls. 4,000 have displayed energy in the public cause and have manifested the sincerity of their remorse by the eagerness with which they have striven to atone for their offence. Although they declare that they would not venture to court a reward, it would for all that be improper to suppress the small amount of sincere regret of which this offering is a proof, but the manner in which appreciation is to be shown must be respectfully left to His Majesty's decision. Should His Majesty condescend to accept their offering, memorialist would pray that the money may be paid into his yamên for expenditure under the heading of military items in connection with the hire of additional horses and footmen in aid of the postal service.—Rescript : We condescend to receive the sum offered by Mao Lin and Ts'ing Lin, who will be straightway released on completion of a full two years' service at the place to which they have been sent.

(2) K'i Yuan, Acting Governor of Shêngking, reports the death of King Fuh, Superintendent of Customs at Shan-haikwan and Ying-k'ow (Newchwang.) Sung Lin, Intendant of Government postal service (馹巡道), has been appointed to act in his stead pending the nomination of a fresh incumbent.

October 6th.—(Court Circular.) Ch'ung How had audience of His Majesty.

(1-2) Decrees temporarily conferring the appointments of Deputy Lieutenant-General of the Plain White Banner Corps and senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office, vacated by Ch'ung How during his absence on a special mission, upon Ch'ung Li and Ch'êng Lin respectively.

(3-6) Memorials from the Governor of Shun-t'ien and other metropolitan authorities applying for donations of rice for the *P'u Ki T'ang* and other relief agencies in Peking and at Lu-kow-k'iao for issue during the winter. The applications have been granted by decrees earlier issued.

(7) Kin Shun, Military Governor of Ili, reports the arrival of Kung T'ang, Commandant of the Forces at Urumtsi, and the assumption of his official duties. At the commandant's request he forwards four memorials on his behalf, the first returning thanks for his appointment, and the three others being memorials of respectful enquiry after the health of Their Majesties.

October 7th.—(Court Circular.) Li Weishu, General of the Yu-kiang Brigade in Kwangsi, had audience of leave.

(1) A decree announcing the result of an investigation by the Governor of Honan into charges brought against certain officials of the province by a Censor who accused them of malpractices and fraud in connection with the distribution of relief, and attributed this state of things to the carelessness of the acting Financial Commissioner, who was neither careful nor judicious in his selection of officers. The Governor's investigations, while failing fully to establish the Censor's charges, have revealed irregularities, errors of judgment, and faults of character on the part of the individuals in question. The sub-Prefect of Shên-chow, the acting Magistrate of An-yang, and the Magistrate of Lo-yang, are therefore to be dismissed at once, and the Magistrate of An-yang is to vacate his post and be placed under supervision at the provincial capital for a year. The acting Financial Commissioner, now Provincial Judge, is to be committed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty.

(2) A decree dismissing five district Magistrates for deceitfulness, carelessness, avarice, stupidity, and other shortcomings, at the recommendation of T'uh Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan.

(3) A Decree. T'uh Tsung-ying requests permission to erect a special sacrificial temple to a departed statesman, and begs

that a record of his meritorious services may be published by the State Historiographer's Office. He also applies for permission to erect another temple for the offering of special sacrifices to the father of this officer. The late Yuan Pao-hêng, senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, accompanied his father Yuan Kia-shan, late Director-General of Grain Transport, on military expeditions in Kiangnan, Anhwei and Shantung during the reign of Hien Fêng, and distinguished himself by his laborious exertions on repeated occasions. Subsequent to this he exhausted himself in his efforts to secure funds for the supply of grain to the army in the North-west, and last year he devoted himself with his whole heart to the assistance of the Governor in the execution of plans for the distribution of relief in Honan, thereby doing credit in a still greater degree to the place in which he was born. In accordance with the Governor's request, let a special temple be erected to him in the capital of Honan, at which the local authorities will offer sacrifice in the spring and autumn. Let special sacrifices be also offered at the temple to the deceased officer's father at Ch'en-chow Fu, and let the meritorious services of the son be recorded by the State Historiographer's Office in order to manifest Our appreciation of his loyalty and attachment.

(4) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Chow K'ai-ming, who requests that timely measures may be taken for the relief of the sufferers from floods in the South-eastern provinces. Numerous districts in the provinces of Kiangsi, Fuhkien, Kwangtung, Hupeh, and Hunan, have been visited by floods caused by excessive rain during the present year, Yao-chow in Kiang-nan, An-li and Sing-chow in Hupeh, and Ch'ang-tê in Hunan, being the greatest sufferers. The condition of these districts during the period intervening between the sprouting of the grain and its arrival at maturity in the coming year must necessarily give cause for the deepest anxiety. The high authorities of the provinces concerned are hereby directed to ascertain carefully the condition of the afflicted districts, and to make timely provision for the wants of the sufferers. In a postscript memorial the Censor calls attention to the existence of numbers of secret affiliated societies such as the *Ko-lao-hwei*, the *T'ien-ti-hwei*, etc., and expresses much apprehension lest the sufferers from disaster should be incited to acts of sedition by the members of these societies. The high authorities in question are to be careful to bestow sufficient consolation and charity upon the sufferers to prevent their dispersion elsewhere in search of subsistence, and are to enforce the tithing system with such severity as to carry out the object with which it was instituted.

October 8th.—(1) A decree referring to the consideration of the Board of Revenue a request from Shan Lien, Superintendent of Customs at Kalgan, whose time has just expired, for permission to be allowed to make good a portion only of the deficit in his supplementary assessment.

(2) Postscript memorial from Ting Jih-ch'ang, summarising the returns of contributions forwarded by him to the famine fund, and requesting a recognition of the services of those who were particularly active in promoting subscriptions. At the end of June, over $500,000 had been sent forward to Tientsin; in July, $200,000 and upwards were transmitted, and the balance will be sent forward as soon as possible, measures being at the same time adopted to extend the area of contribution as much as possible. The agents who were particularly active in the encouragement of contributions were Chang Sün, the Taotai at Ch'ao-chow, Hia Sien-lun, Taotai of T'aiwan, and other officers (whose name are given.) By regarding a public matter as they would their domestic concerns, they were enabled to get together large sums and rescue many of the friendless and forlorn. Ever mindful of the hunger and misery which many had to endure, they practised personal economy and retrenchment, so thorough were they in their appreciation of the great interests involved. So great a liking for deeds of patriotism amounting to a thirst after benevolence, and resulting on this occasion in the rescue of so many of their suffering neighbours at the cost of all their strength, can hardly be likened to exhortations to charity of a casual and ordinary kind. The memorialist dares not suppress mention of the meritorious services, slight though they may be, of these individuals, and would pray His Majesty to direct Li Hung-chang at the close of the relief operations to select the most worthy of them and recommend them for the most distinguished notice. To Lin Wei-yuan, a notable of T'aiwan and Taotai awaiting selection, who has subscribed as much as $520,000, and thus been instrumental in securing existence to a particularly large number, it has already been determined by the Board of Revenue that an honorary reward shall be granted beyond the limits of ordinary distinction. $260,000 of the sum contributed by him in

addition to the donation of grain for his own province, which has already been made over, have been allotted to Shansi and Honan by Li Hung-chang, and a first instalment of $100,000, being a portion of the balance still forthcoming for Chihli, has been sent forward, and the remaining $90,000 shall be remitted in regular succession. When the money has all gone forward, the memorialist hopes that the exceptional reward determined by the Board may be bestowed upon him, that lovers of patriotic deeds in all parts of the earth may hear of the recognition that his charity has met with.

October 9th.—(1) Memorial from Ming An, Military Governor of Kirin, reporting the result of a final inquest upon the body of a suicide who was said to have been kicked to death. (See *Gazettes* of 20th, 21st Mar., 16th April, and 12th Aug.) The appellant Wang Kin-tuan, having at length been induced to consent to the steaming process, it having been found impossible to detect by the *pai-kiang* or ordinary process the injuries alleged to have been committed on the body before decease, the Prefect of Ch'ang-t'u in Fêng-t'ien was sent for and brought with him an experienced corpse examiner. Memorialist was present at the inquest, and heard the reports shouted out by the examiners as they proceeded with the inspection of the body. Here follows the substance of their report, the details of which are far from interesting, and occupy two pages of technicalities. The conclusion they arrived at was that deceased had met his death by hanging, and that he had hanged himself, a conclusion that was supported by the Prefect, and, finally, by the memorialist, who himself inspected the body and felt convinced from the indications presented by the corpse that death had resulted from self-inflicted hanging, and not from a kick to the stomach as was alleged by the appellant Wang Kin-tuan. This being the case, it still remained to clear up the mystery attaching to the appeals made by Wang Kin-tuan, and to discover why it was that the body was disfigured after death, as it must have been, and why the examiner on a previous occasion had falsely reported that these marks denoted injuries received during the lifetime of the deceased. That the appellant made a false charge is apparent, and the fact that he was willing to accept the finding eventually, in spite of his artfulness and mendacity in the commencement, gives strong reason to suspect that it was he who mutilated the body, that he then bribed the examiner to give a false report, and that when he saw that he was going to be found out and his scheme had failed, he agreed to accept the finding and take away the body, in order that the case might be closed and he avoid the punishment that would otherwise be inflicted on him. Application has accordingly been made to the Board for permission to deprive him of his *Kien-sheng* degree, and place him on his trial with the other parties to the suit, in order to get to the bottom of the whole business and mete out just punishment to those who deserve it.—Rescript: Noted.

(2) Yi Tsung, Prince of Tun, President of the Imperial Clan Court, and his colleagues, memorialise with reference to a verbal command given to the Prince of Kung by Their Majesties the Empresses on the 7th September last to the following effect:—"The *To Lo Pei Leh* (Prince of the 3rd order), Tsai P'ei, having passed away, the *To Lo Kiin Wang*, Prince of Fow-king, has now no successor. Let the Imperial Clan Court select all the children over sixteen years of age and up to five years of age belonging to the sixteen families of the *Tsai T'zu Pei* (or generation having the character *Tsai* 載 for their designation*), and all those of the same generation from the twenty-four families between the ages of five and ten, and take them to the palace of the Prince of Fow-king for inspection." In reverent obedience to Their Majesties' decree, enquiry was made, and it was found that there were two members of the sixteen families belonging to the generation with the character 載 who were of the right age and to whose selection there was no impediment, and seven of the same generation between the ages of five and ten amongst the twenty-four families. These youths were taken to the Fow-king *Kiin Wang's* palace on the 20th September by His Majesty's servants Yi Tsung (Prince of Tun), Yi Hwan (Prince of Ch'un), Yi Siang (son of Prince of Hwei), and Yi Mo (brother of the foregoing), for inspection by him, and the Princess Consort asked whether she might take Tsai Ki the son of Yi Chan, nine years of age, as the Prince of Fow-king's successor under the designation of Yi Hwei. She begged memorialists to pray Their Majesties the Empresses and the Emperor to exercise their sacred choice on her behalf. The memorialists further respectfully await Their Majesties' commands as to whether Tsai Ki shall enter the

* See Appendix to Translation of Peking *Gazette* for 1876.

penetralia and hold himself in readiness for inspection. (For decree see *Gazette* of 23rd September.)

October 10th.—(1) A decree consenting to an application from Shên Pao-chêng that the official biography of Sung Kwoh-yung, formerly General of the Hoh Li Brigade in Yünnan, and now deceased, shall be prepared by the State Historiographer's Office, and that he shall be enrolled upon the list of departed worthies to whose *manes* periodical sacrifices are offered, both in Szech'wan and Hupeh.

(2) Memorial from Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Hu-kwang provinces. When the collection of duties on bamboo and wooden furniture (?) 竹木工稅 was first instituted at the new Custom House in Hupeh, Kwan Wên, a former Governor-General, obtained His Majesty's consent to the appointment of an officer, selected from amongst the expectant Taotais and Prefects of the province, to superintend the collection of this tax, the term of office being limited to one year. Yang Tsung-lien, expectant Taotai with Brevet rank of Financial Commissioner, the present Superintendent of Customs 督辦新關稅務, now reports that his year of office expired on the 29th June last, when the total amount collected by him was Tls. 39,991.5.7.3.4, or Tls. 12,200 in excess of the assessed amount, regular and supplementary. Yang Tsung-lien has begged that an officer may be sent to replace him, but memorialist thinks that as he has been so successful during his incumbency, it is only right that he should hold the post for another year.—Rescript: Noted.

(3) Kwoh Lo-min, Tartar General at Hangchow, complains of an irregularity on the part of the Manchu Brigade-General *(fu tu t'ung)* Fu Erh-sun, lately stationed at Chap'oo but now transferred to Hangchow. It is a rule established by long precedent that when the Brigade-General at Chap'oo is called upon from any cause to leave his post he shall write, through the Tartar General at Hangchow, to the Brigade-General in that city to take temporary charge of his duties, and at the same time that the Tartar General shall memorialise the Throne requesting His Majesty to select an officer to act in his stead. Fu Erh-sun entered upon his duties as Brigade-General at Hangchow on the 1st September, before Shih Lu, the newly-appointed Brigade-General at Chap'oo, had arrived at his post, and as it would not have been right to leave the post unfilled, the course indicated above should have been adopted. Memorialist therefore wrote to the Brigade-General at Hangchow (Fu Erh-sun) directing him to perform the duties of General at Chap'oo on behalf of Shih Lu, and was about to request His Majesty to select an officer to undertake the acting duties, when he learnt, to his surprise, that Fu Erh-sun in reporting the assumption of his new duties had styled himself Acting Brigade-General at Chap'oo. In order therefore to acquit himself of the blame attaching to so manifestly unconstitutional a proceeding, which as colleague of the Manchu General he would under ordinary circumstances be liable, memorialist begs to repudiate any connection with the action of Fu Erh-sun, and would respectfully request His Majesty's instructions as to whether it is His wish that Fu Erh-sun should be called upon to act as Brigade-General at Chap'oo, or that some other officer be appointed to take temporary charge of the duties of the post. (For Decree see *Gazette* of 26th September.)

(4) Fu Erh-sun, Manchu Brigade-General at Hangchow, and Acting Brigade-General at Chap'oo, reports his assumption of the former post, and returns thanks for his appointment.—Rescript: Noted.

(5) Kwoh Lo-min, in a postscript memorial, draws attention to the irregularity of which Fu Erh-sun has been guilty in affixing the seal of the Acting Brigade-General of Chap'oo to his memorial and certain correspondence with the Board, instead of requesting memorialist to affix the seal of the Tartar General. (See Decree of 26th September.)

October 11th.—(1) Ting Pao-chêng in a postscript memorial brings to the notice of His Majesty some cases of filial devotion, and requests the bestowal of the usual marks of approbation upon the devotees. The sub-Prefect of P'an-ting reports that in his district there is a poor family called T'ang, consisting of a father, mother, and nine sons, who bear a high reputation for filial piety, friendship, and brotherly love. The mother, who was suffering from an ailment of long standing, having been seized with a sudden craving for meat some two years ago, which her sons were unable from their poverty to satisfy, one of them, Chao-Yuan by name, having often heard that flesh cut from the person was efficacious in the curing of parental maladies, and eager to rescue his mother from death, cut a piece of flesh from the upper part of his arm and made it into soup which he gave to his mother and so effected a cure in due

course of time. His relations and friends discovered what he had done, but he hindered them from reporting the meritorious act he had committed, on the ground that he had only fulfilled the bounden duty of a son towards his parents. A year later, his father was confined to his bed with sickness, and continued in the same condition with varying intervals of progress and the reverse for several months. Medicine was apparently of no avail, and the same son, impatient at his father's seemingly helpless condition, surreptitiously made an incision in his left side after engaging in earnest prayers. He fainted away after having done so, but on returning to consciousness he immediately proceeded to cut a piece off his liver which he offered to his father, whose long-standing complaint was at once taken away. The son recovered from his mutilation and suffered no sickness therefrom. The Magistrate of the Jên-show district reports that one Ts'ui Kin-tze was blessed with a truly filial heart. His grandfather, an old man of over eighty years of age, suffered from an affection of the foot, his father has something wrong with his eyes, and his mother had heart complaint. The three had been dosed with every kind of medicine, but none of them derived any benefit from the remedies applied, so the son, after kneeling on the ground and praying to the heavenly spirits, cut a strip of flesh from his left ribs, which he made into broth and served out to his grandfather, father, and mother. As soon as they had partaken of it, the longstanding maladies of the three parents were immediately taken away, and Ts'ui Kin-tze found himself none the worse for his mutilation. It was not known at first that he had cut away any of his liver, but his relatives noticed a scar on his ribs some time afterwards and extorted from him by dint of repeated questionings a confession of his act of devotion. Several other cases of a similar nature are reported, and a Rescript is appended to the memorial sanctioning the bestowal of marks of approbation upon the individuals who have thus distinguished themselves.

October 12th.—(1) A long memorial from Li Hung-chang reporting on the capabilities of the Ch'ang-lu salt area for further taxation. A Tutor of the Imperial Academy having suggested to His Majesty that the large requirements of the famine in Chihli which there were not funds enough to meet, should be aided by the imposition of a tax of two *cash* on every catty of salt sold to the original purchaser, memorialist was called upon to consider the matter and report upon it. He begs to state that the funds required for famine relief in Chihli are undoubtedly far in excess of those at his disposal, and he has been obliged to borrow largely to supplement the appropriations sanctioned by His Majesty and the contributions received from various sources. It is, no doubt, essential that some plan be devised for repaying the loan thus contracted and securing funds to continue the work of relief, the necessity for which has by no means ceased with the gathering of an autumn crop. The Tutor's scheme is not without advantage to the public cause, and his ideas in some particulars coincide with those of memorialist, who referred the question to the Salt Commissioner for the expression of an opinion. That officer has now replied that the salt merchants have already been burdened with extra taxes for military and other purposes which have raised the prime cost of salt to a height which can yield them little profit, restricted as the trade has been by the recent famine, failure in the salt harvest, and the introduction and sale of the contraband article. The wealthier amongst them have already contributed to the famine fund extensively out of their private means, and were the whole salt trade to be now saddled with an additional tax, the burden would be more than the trade could bear, and the Imperial revenue would suffer in consequence. The Commissioner therefore suggests the adoption of a modified and less sweeping measure, such as the levy of a contribution of Tls. 20,000 per annum from the merchants engaged in the salt trade, irrespective of the amount of their sales for the next five years to come. Granted by Rescript.

October 13th.—(1) A Decree. The province of Shansi having been afflicted last year with excessive drought, appropriations of money and grain were granted on repeated occasions in aid of the sufferers therefrom. In the month of June last the Governor of Shansi reported that rain had been obtained and we were slightly comforted, hoping that dearth might be turned into abundance and our people raised to the enjoyment of plenty and contentment. This was not to be, for in the sixth moon great drought again prevailed and many districts were once more afflicted with calamity, leaving the people with failing breath to gasp out the little life that was left to them, a state of wretchedness and misery with which they were little fitted to contend. There is every reason to fear that the people will have to face the joint attacks of

cold and hunger during the coming winter which must intervene between the sprouting and maturing of the crops, during which time they will have nothing wherewith to support existence. The Court is filled with constant and burning anxiety on their behalf, and we hereby command, as a special act of grace, that 120,000 piculs of Shantung tribute grain be appropriated for their relief. Let the Governor of Shantung direct his Grain Intendant to send it forward without delay, for the whole amount must positively be on its way within the year. The silver that should accompany the tribute as a set-off against short weight will also be appropriated, and the Board of Revenue are hereby directed to provide Tls. 200,000 to meet the expenses of transport which [the province itself] will find it difficult to raise. Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan and Yen King-ming will see that relief is afforded to those who need it, and will take care that none are suffered to wander from their homes.

(2) Memorial from Li Hung-chang announcing the cessation of all further necessity for the maintenance of establishments in Peking for the sale of grain at reduced rates. In the month of October last year, the importation of grain into Peking having fallen off considerably, prices rose proportionately and the poorer classes found it hard to live. Memorialist was then directed by His Majesty to make arrangements for selling grain at reduced rates, and as he has already reported, he directed Chu K'i-ang, head of the China Merchants' Co., to borrow funds and go to the southern province to purchase rice. Officers were at the same time sent to the metropolis to consult with the proper authorities as to the best position for these agencies, which were finally established outside the three front, or southern gates of the city, a depôt for the receipt and forwarding of the grain as it arrived being opened at T'ung Chow. A quantity of grain was hurried forward before the river closed, and in the beginning of this year it was decided to open three branch agencies in other parts of Peking, all the arrangements connected with these establishments having been satisfactorily carried out; and everything working smoothly and quietly, further purchases of rice were made from Fêng-t'ien in obedience to Imperial decree and forwarded by steamer to Tientsin and from thence on to Peking. On the death of Chu K'i-ang, Chu K'i-shao, his brother, was appointed superintendent in his stead. A certain portion of the necessary funds was raised by Chu K'i-ang, Tls. 110,000 were appropriated by memorialist from the maritime defence fund, and a grant of Tls. 40,000 was obtained from the Board of Revenue. The agencies have now been open for eight months, and during that time 26,000 piculs of the coarse rice known as *keng mi*, 13,000 piculs of another description of rice called *sien mi*, 5,720 bags of millet, 26,970 bags of Barbadoes millet, and 13,540 bags of lentils, were sold at a reduction on the market prices. Notices were posted outside, and the people flocked to buy. At first sales averaged some score or so piculs a day, but gradually increased to five or six hundred, until the grain shops could no longer maintain different rates and were obliged to come down to the Government rates, thereby enabling the poor to participate actually in the benefits which the scheme was intended to bring within their reach. Barbadoes millet, wheat, and miscellaneous cereals were sold to the grain shops in wholesale quantities in order to enable them to convert the corn into flour and sell it in a convenient form for consumption. With the exception of millet, all stock in store was sold off by September last, and it having been intended that the system should be discontinued in the autumn if possible, memorialist gave directions that all the establishments should be closed at the end of the month, as a good harvest was close at hand and prices had reached their natural level. Rescript.—Let the Board of Revenue take Note.

(3) Postscript memorial by the same officer. In consequence of the famine in the province of Chihli, His Majesty was pleased to sanction a recommendation by memorialist that distilling should be temporarily put a stop to, and a decree to that effect was published on the 30th of March last. The condition of things that called forth this prohibition having now been ameliorated, low prices at present prevailing as the result of harvests averaging 70 to 80 per cent. of a full crop, the continuance of the embargo is no longer called for. In fact, unless some stimulus be given to the corn trade, prices are likely to fall too low, and then the farmer will suffer, so that it is now as desirable to encourage the consumption of grain by distilleries as it was at one time to check it. The memorialist would therefore suggest that distillers holding licences from the Board of Revenue be permitted to resume their trade and pay the usual taxes to the Board, but that, as earlier suggested by that Board, no fresh establishments be allowed to be opened.—Granted by Rescript.

October 14th.—(1) Siang Heng, Manchu Brigade-General at Shan-hai Kwan, reports the arrest of a smuggler of ginseng at the Si-fêng pass in the Great Wall, and the manner in which he proposes to deal with him. The ginseng, which weighed oz. 18.9, was found in the man's box by the Manchu captain on duty at the time, who sent him on, with the ginseng, to memorialist, and he handed the man to the Magistrate of the Lin-yü district for examination. The following is the account of himself given by the man :—"My name is Li Ts'un-siang, and my home is in the Po-sing district of the Ts'ing-chow prefecture in Shantung. I am 40 years of age, and I have a father 72 years old, a mother 73, a wife, and one son. A relative of mine is a schoolmaster in the Ch'ao-yang district beyond the Wall, and as things were bad with us two years ago, I left my home and went up to where my relation was, and worked for a man in the place. My mother fell sick, and having run up an account for medicines at the drug shop which she could not pay, my father sent my younger brother to find me. I was working for a man called Yang T'sai, but when I heard my mother was ill I wanted to go back at once, and as my employer had no ready money with which to pay me the wages he owed me, he gave me oz. 18.9 of the ginseng he grew on his farm as a set-off against my wages. I took the ginseng, not knowing it was a contraband article, and intended when I got home to give it to my mother, who could pay her debt to the drug shop with a portion of it and use the balance as a remedy for her own complaint. The ginseng was found in my possession by the soldiers on duty at the Si-fêng pass, who told me it was contraband and sent me on here for trial. I did not know that ginseng was a contraband article, and was not carrying it surreptitiously." On reference to the regulations of the Board of Revenue, memorialist finds that on the seizure of ginseng at the Shan-hai Customs, if the quantity exceed ten taels weight, the offender is to be sent to the Board of Punishments for trial; that eighty per cent. of the ginseng is to be confiscated, and the remainder given to the soldiers who made the seizure. This rule was modified in the year 1866, when a proposal of the then Manchu General was sanctioned by decree, that only systematic and wilful smugglers of ginseng for amounts exceeding 100 taels in weight should be sent to the Board of Punishments, other cases being dealt with on the spot. Li Ts'un-siang's account of the manner in which he obtained the ginseng in question being unsupported by other than his own testimony, to which absolute credence cannot possibly be given, the memorialist proposes to send him to the Lieutenant-Governor of Yeh-ho, who will pass him on to the Ch'ao-yang district to be confronted with his employer for corroboration of his statements or the reverse, sentence being passed accordingly.

October 15th.—(1) A Decree. The Imperial Board of Astronomy report that they have reverently selected the 17th of April, 1879, as the day upon which the coffins containing the remains of Their late Majesties the Emperor and Empress should be consigned to their everlasting resting place. Let the Yamên charged with such matters carefully and reverently make due preparation for the ritual and ceremonies, and all matters connected therewith, that should be observed on that occasion.

(2) Mu T'u-shan, Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar, and his colleague, Kw'ei Ch'ang, report that the horses for ploughing purposes for which a requisition was made some time since by Li Hung-chang, have now been all sent forward. On receipt of the Imperial Decree directing them to provide these horses, memorialists at once instructed the officers from the Court of the Imperial stud in charge of the horses put out to grass, to select 3,000 serviceable animals from the different herds. Subsequent to the issue of these instructions, a letter was received from Li Hung-chang stating that an officer and soldiers had been sent as far as the Great Wall to take delivery of the horses and bring them down. The officers charged with the selection of these animals have now reported that, in obedience to instructions, they have selected 3,000 sturdy and serviceable gray* horses, all in good condition, and sent them forward to the Wall in three instalments on the 17th, 18th, and 19th September respectively. They were inspected by memorialists on their arrival and handed over to the officer appointed by Li Hung-chang to receive them.

[* *Note.*—青 This character is perhaps one of the most perplexing to the translator that the Chinese language contains, for it seems capable of being used to denote so many different shades of color as to render it perfectly impossible to assign a general meaning to the word. It can be applied to the deep blue of the sky, the white of an egg, the glossy black of evening clothes (commonly called *ts'ing yi*), the various shades of green in plants,

the purple bloom on fruit, a gray or nearly white horse, a black horse, the colour of the sea, etc., etc. The nearest analogy to the abstract meaning of the word is to be found in the Greek adjective *glaukos*, but unfortunately this is of little use to any but the philologist, for *glaukos*, however grammatically correct, would hardly be considered euphonious when used to denote the colour of a horse or of the conventional evening garb of a civilised European.]

(3) Memorial from Yang Ch'ang-kün ex-Governor of Chêkiang, forwarded through the Governor of Hunan, returning thanks for his appointment to the post of Assistant to the Grand Secretary Tso Tsung-t'ang *vice* Liu Tien, who has been allowed to retire on the ground of ill-health. The memorialist appears to be doubtful whether his constitution will be able to bear the strain that will be put upon it by so inclement a climate, but it is his duty to obey His Majesty's summons. He proposes to start from his native place on the 26th September, and will proceed by way of Hupeh and Shênsi.

October 16th.—(1) A decree expressing the Imperial regret at the intelligence of the death of Yi-ts'ing, Deputy Lieutenant-General of the Mongol division of the bordered blue banner corps, and Sub-chancellor of the Grand Secretariat. All official penalties recorded against his name are to be remitted, and the proper yamên are to see that the honours are paid to his memory to which he is entitled by law.

(2) Memorial from Li Hung-chang commending to His Majesty's most favourable notice the services of Wu Ta-Chêng, Compiler of the Han-lin, who, at memorialist's request, was placed under his orders to be employed in the work of famine relief. He has now been engaged on this duty for almost a year, during which time he has been unceasing in his activity day and night. He has braved the vicissitudes of cold and heat, made enquiries everywhere for those in sickness or distress, and soothed their sufferings when they were in need of comfort, showing for them the beautiful tenderness of a father or mother towards their children. There are few places in which the people have so literally enjoyed the full benefits of the relief that was supplied for them as those in which he laboured. If a post to which the smallest amount of power and independence of action are attached be given to this man, he has the power and the capability to keep the people true to their country and turn back the tide of those national calamities which periodically visit the land. In an Imperial decree of the month of April last, provincial high authorities were commanded to recommend to His Majesty all officers under their notice whose abilities were above the common, and whose official character was free from corruption, and memorialist feels sure that Wu Ta-chêng would not do discredit to any preferment that might be bestowed upon him. He would therefore reverently pray His Majesty to break through the rules of official routine, and record the name of Wu Ta-chêng for special employment in an important capacity. Rescript.—Let Wu Ta-chêng be sent to the Board for presentation to Us as soon as his present duties are accomplished.

October 17th.—(1) A decree conferring military distinctions on a number of officers who have been recommended by K'i Yuan, Acting-Governor of Fêng-t'ien, for energy displayed in the capture of a notorious bandit chief, Shao Si-lai by name.

(2) Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, reports the death by suicide of the Magistrate of the K'in-yuan district and his wife. Inquiries conducted by the Prefect of P'ing-yang, in whose jurisdiction the district in question lies, showed that the late Magistrate Yü Chung-tê by name, had made himself ill by hard work in connection with famine relief, and while in a bad state of health he was harassed by anxiety and distress owing to the failure of rain in the spring, and when rain did at last fall, the desolation and depopulation around him, and the impossibility of collecting Imperial taxes, weighed so heavily on his mind that he put an end to his life in his sorrow and impatience. His wife refused food after his death, and soon followed him. The truth of this account was established by the testimony of relatives of the deceased, their own servants, and the neighbouring gentry and notables. The memorialist ventures to solicit from His Majesty a mark of Imperial approbation for the deceased pair.—Granted by Rescript.

No other documents of importance.

October 18th.—(1) A decree appointing Ki Ko 繼格 to the post of deputy Lieutenant-General of the Mongol division of the Bordered Red banner corps.

(2) An appeal case reported by the Court of Censors. A literary graduate from Kirin, Ts'ao Kiang by name, complains that two brothers, local bullies, possessed of some property, made an attempt, through a woman with whom they had already had improper relations, to seduce his aunt, and

that the latter having rejected their overtures, they made a raid on her house in the absence of her husband and tried to force their way indoors. She barricaded the door, and her screams having attracted the notice of the neighbours, her persecutors decamped. The aunt, however, ashamed and mortified at the insult that had been done her, committed suicide, whereupon the brothers seized her husband and locked him up until he undertook to bury the body and not report the death to the authorities. The petitioner then brought a charge against them, but one of the brothers bribed a clerk in the sub-Prefect's yamên in which the complaint was laid, to seize petitioner's uncle and his nephew and lock them up. He also paid a woman of loose character to personate a relative of the deceased and make certain false statements, upon which the sub-Prefect dismissed the case. Petitioner's uncle then appealed to the supreme provincial court, but was brought back and imprisoned, being subjected to such rigorous treatment in his captivity that he died. A further appeal to the Military Governor resulted in the relegation of the case to the local court, with a repetition of the delays and obstructions that had earlier been complained of. Referred as usual.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials upon matters of ordinary official routine.

October 19th.—(1) A memorial from the Head of the Imperial Equipage Department and his colleagues complaining bitterly of the systematic neglect of the Governor-General of Chihli to attend to repeated demands from that department for the payment of arrears due for rent. The department is absolutely without funds to meet the numerous items of expenditure it is called upon to undertake, with the result that for the last year and a half the various grants that the department is required by law to issue have been suspended. Over Tls. 480,000 are due from the province of Chihli, and the memorialists are constrained to pray Their Majesties to command the Governor-General Li Hung-chang to give positive orders to the Financial Commissioner to raise at least the amount of rents due for the present year from some source or other, and send it forward with all dispatch. The balance of arrears due should also be made good without further delay. (For decree see *Gazette* of 4th October.)

(2) Li Hoh-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, reports that the rise of the waters of that river at the *pai lu* period has passed without mishap.

(3) Ming An, Military Governor of Kirin, and his second in command Yü-liang, apply for permission to forego the assemblage of troops for the purpose of holding the annual winter hunt. Although the large bands of banditti have been successfully exterminated, "lurkers in the grass" still continue very numerous, and it would be imprudent to withdraw even for a time the troops stationed at various points by whose presence these individuals and the unsubdued "gold hunters" are kept in check. The costliness of the undertaking, the expenses in connection with which are estimated at Tls. 14,000, is also urged as a reason for its abandonment.—Granted by Rescript.

(4) Yang Chung-ya, Governor of Kwangsi, reports the receipt of a representation from Ts'ên Yü-ying, formerly Acting Governor of Yünnan and Kweichow, stating that the twenty-seven months of obligatory mourning for his mother, which he vacated his post to fulfil, were completed on the 5th July last, but that, as at the time of his grandmother's death in the year 1860, when he was acting as Magistrate of the Yi-liang district in Yünnan, he was not permitted for public reasons to go into mourning for her, he would now beg permission to be allowed to conform to established usage and wear mourning for his grandmother during a space of 100 days before presenting himself again for employment.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office take note.

October 20th.—(1) A decree consenting to an application from the Governor of Shun-t'ien that the charitable acts of certain officials, whose names are given, shall be recorded in the histories of the provinces to which they respectively belong. During the spring and early part of the summer of the present year, when famine-stricken people flocked to Peking from every quarter, these officers, either by heading subscription lists for setting relief agencies on foot, or by assisting personally in the distribution of relief, each and all displayed a delight in doing good and a patriotic spirit, combined with fortitude in the endurance of their [self-imposed] burdens. Unfortunately they succumbed one after the other to a pestilential disease, to the attacks of which they had rendered themselves liable by the fatigue induced by their labours.

(2) A decree in answer to the Governor of Shun-t'ien graciously according permission to Ts'üan Ts'ing, Grand Secretary and President of the Board of Punishments, a faithful servant of the State for four generations, who has now approached the eighth decade of his life, and has shown himself a

zealous and diligent public servant, to attend a second time at the feast given to the successful *kü jên*, or provincial graduates, with the honorary title of Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent.

(3) A memorial from Fêng Shên, Military Governor of Kirin, reporting the trial of one Kan Ko-ling, who had personated a deputy Commissioner of the Office of Transmission, and fraudulently assumed the insignia attaching to that office for the purpose of extorting money from different persons. Amongst other illegal acts he and those with him had attempted to extort 3,000 strings of *cash* from a certain shopkeeper on the pretence of having been commissioned to investigate a complaint that had been made against him by another individual. His barefaced and audacious fraud was however discovered, and he and the majority of his confederates were arrested by the deputy Lieutenant-Governor at Merguen, by whom they were sent on to memorialist for trial. The fact of their guilt having been clearly established, it is proposed to inflict the penalty of death by strangulation on the two chief offenders and to pass mitigated sentences on their accomplices.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

(4) The Governor of Chêkiang requests that, for the present, the Board of Civil Office may be instructed to abstain from appointing any more expectants for office to his province, as there are already many more than places can possibly be found for. There is only one Intendancy of Circuit and five prefectures in the province open to officers of this class, and there are already more than twenty aspirants for the former post and as many as sixty for the latter. There are seventy-six sub-prefectures, magistracies, etc., to which "expectants" can be appointed, and as many as five hundred aspirants; while for two hundred minor appointments there is a list of over a thousand expectants. Numbers of these officers have no possible hope of ever obtaining substantive employment or even an acting appointment, and there is much difficulty in providing for their selection in proper rotation for duties of a special or temporary nature. Numbers have to remain in enforced idleness and abject poverty, and their distress must of course be aggravated by any accession to their numbers. —Granted by Rescript.

October 21st.—(1) A decree directing Ngên Ch'êng and T'ung Hwa to proceed express by Government post to Szech'wan to investigate and take action in certain official matters.

(2) T'uh Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, requests His Majesty's sanction to the erection of a special temple to Yuan Paohêng, late Famine Commissioner and Vice-President of the Board of Punishments at Siang-chêng-hien, his native place. A brief notice of the deceased officer's official career, which has already been summarised in earlier memorials, is embodied in the memorial.—Decree already published.

(3) The same officer reports an application on the part of the Prefect of K'ai-fêng, Ma Sien-têng, now 68 years of age, for permission to vacate his post and be placed on the list of expectant Taotais.—Decree already issued.

October 22nd.—(1) A decree acknowledging a memorial from Yên King-ming, Famine Commissioner in Shansi, specially recommending to His Majesty's favour a number of officers whose names and respective merits are enumerated. It becomes the special duty of the officers in question, now that they have been recommended by Yên King-ming, to be more than ever diligent in season and out, that they fall not away from [their good behaviour.]

(2) Postscript memorial from Shên Paochêng. During the incumbency of the late Governor-General Tsêng Kwoh-fan, the naval administration of the province of Kiangsu was divided into three principal branches, the *wai hai*, or ocean division, the *nai yang*, or coast division, and the *li ho*, or river division, and a knowledge of the laws of weather, the condition of the coast, and naval tactics, with a capacity to endure fatigue, was required of all commanders and officers of vessels of every class. T'u Fu-lung, colonel first on the list for appointment, who has for many years commanded the steam vessel *Tsê Hai* and has frequently been out after pirates, has been pronounced by the Commander-in-chief, who has carefully tested his qualifications, to be an experienced and capable officer, with a thorough knowledge of the duties and technicalities of the two first divisions above enumerated. His term of office having now expired, it is humbly suggested that T'uh Fu-lung be retained in Kiangsu, and that he be appointed to the first vacancy that occurs as commodore in the ocean or sea-going squadron.—Granted by Rescript.

October 23rd.—(1) Hü Shu-ming 徐樹銘 is appointed a sub-Director of the Grand Court of Revision.

(2) A decree ordering a grant of 300 piculs of millet to be made to the two *nuan ch'ang*, or sleeping houses for casuals, in the city of Peking.

(3) A decree consenting to an application from the Censor for the western division of the metropolis, for an annual grant of 300 piculs of millet to a Mahommedan refuge, and a refuge for casuals recently established in the western part of Peking.

(4) Memorial from Shan Lien, late Superintendent of Customs at Kalgan, submitting a return of the duties collected by him during his year of office. The amounts are as follows :—

	Tls.	Strings of cash.
Collected by his predecessor on his behalf.....	17,319	1,003
Collected by himself.....	17,644	2,189
Total.....	34,963	3,192

The regular annual assessment for the Kalgan station is Taels 60,561, so that allowing Taels 2,128 for the strings of *cash*, which gives a total of Taels 37,091, the collection falls short of the assessment by Taels 23,470, for a portion of which deficit memorialist's predecessor is responsible. He would respectfully explain with reference to these figures that tea from the South and skins and leather from Kiahta are the principal articles of export and import respectively from which the revenue of the Kalgan station is derived, and next to these comes the tax on animals. In former years the whole of the trade was carried on by Chinese merchants, but of late the export of tea has passed almost entirely into Russian hands, and as, under the regulations, it is passed free of duty when exported by them, the result is that Chinese speculators have gradually fallen off and the Customs receipts have been correspondingly reduced. The distress in the Northern provinces has also been the cause of a falling off of revenue consequent on commercial depression, and the only branch upon which there has been a slight increase of receipts is the cattle trade. (For decree see *Gazette* of 8th October.)

October 24th.—(1) A decree appointing T'ung Tsün-han 董儁翰 to the Censorship of the central division of the metropolis.

(2) Chêng Ts'ao-ju 鄭藻如 is appointed Customs Taotai at Tientsin.

(3) Joint memorial from the Tartar-General at Hangchow, the Governor of Chêkiang, and the Manchu Brigade-General at Hangchow, reporting the capture of one Chêng T'ing, *alias* Jung Fuh, an ex-bannerman, who had created a disturbance in a tea shop in Hangchow and had afterwards absconded. (See *Gazettes* of 15th June and 3rd September.) Detectives were sent after him, and he was finally arrested by a cavalry soldier in the Shang-yuan district in Kiangsu, the Magistrate of which district sent him on to Hangchow for trial. The following is the account of the affair:—Chêng T'ing, *alias* Jung Fuh, was a bannerman attached to the Tê-chow garrison in Shantung, who was struck off the roll some years ago for absenting himself without permission and went to Hangchow to start a small business. Ha Shan-pao, T'o K'o-shan, and K'i Pu-sên were soldiers in the Manchu garrison at Hangchow and acquaintances of Chêng T'ing. At the end of last year Chêng T'ing went to a tea shop in a neighbourhood known as *Lien kiao* and tried to buy three catties of tea on credit, but the shopman refused to sell him any on those terms, and he left the shop in a rage vowing vengeance on the proprietor. On the following day he returned to the shop, and, tendering three dollars, said he wished to buy some tea which must be made up into three thousand packets. The shopman, seeing that his intention was to provoke a disturbance, spoke to him in a conciliatory manner, but Chêng T'ing struck the counter with his hand and began to use abusive language, whereupon the shopman caught hold of him and threatened to send him in to the authorities. At this moment Ha Shan-pao and the other men whose names are given above passed by, and seeing what was going on came to the assistance of their friend. A struggle ensued, and Chêng T'ing, who had freed himself from the grasp of the shopman, drew a sword or knife he had upon him and struck the shopman with the back of it, inflicting injury upon his left arm and right leg. His friends came into the shop, but their advance was impeded by another shopman who was struck by one of them with a piece of wood that was lying handy. A crowd of people from the street now began to assemble and a general hubbub prevailed, in the course of which the *tepao* arrived, when the crowd dispersed and Chêng T'ing and his friends decamped. The former concealed himself in Ha Shan-pao's house, but when he heard the police were after him he absconded, and for a time could not be found, though his companions were arrested. His guilt having been clearly established upon examination after his arrests, the only thing remaining was to pass sentence, and the law laying down that "ferocious and wicked bullies who on repeated occasions have been guilty of acts of violence and done personal injury without

cause or provocation, such injury being indisputably proved by general knowledge and testimony, shall be banished to the farther frontier, such frontier being fully 4,000 *li* distant," it is now proposed to inflict this penalty upon Chêng T'ing, who will be beaten with one hundred blows upon arrival at his destination and have the four characters *yen chang kai fa* "banishment changed to a pestilential place" tattoed upon his check. Ha Shan-pao and the others will be banished for three years and receive one hundred blows, which is one degree milder than the penalty awarded to the chief aggressor.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

October 25th.—No documents of importance.

October 26th—(1) A decree conferring honorary rewards upon certain military officers in Hupeh, who were instrumental in the capture of fugitive banditti from Honan.

(2) A decree. The Censor Li T'inghiao having memorialised that at a place called Fan-k'ou in Hupeh there were certain dykes and sluices [the existence of which] is important to agricultural interests as well as to human life, and that the officer sent to inspect these dykes had not sent in a true report. At his solicitation We directed P'êng Yü-lin to proceed to the place and carefully inspect them. He now reports that the dykes and sluices at Fan-k'ou are of the gravest importance to the life and landed property of the people occupying the country adjoining the lake, and that the large embankment 40 *li* in length, running from Po-shan to Fan-k'ou, must be at once repaired, and a fresh embankment of a *li* in length must be made above Po-shan. That a stone sluice inside of Fan-k'ou must also be replaced, and certain other works undertaken, all of which will be done by the people at their own expense under official protection and support. The above-mentioned officer having ascertained that the dykes and sluices at the place in question have a beneficial influence on the revenue of the country as well as upon human life, while they do not materially damage the interests of the fishing and trading population, the conflicting interests ought naturally to be weighed one against the other, and, preference being given to the more weighty, the necessary repairs be proceeded with. In accordance, then, with what has been requested, let Li Han-chang and the others concerned give directions to their subordinates to put the matter in hand at once, and to prevent any interference on the part of the people of the locality affected. The works here undertaken are sanctioned on account of their being necessary under the peculiar circumstances of the case, but the sanction now given is not to be looked upon as a precedent for similar demands in other places. Yuan Kia-fu and the other litigious rascals, whose names are enumerated, will be arrested and punished with the utmost severity, and a report will be made to Us of the extent to which the taxes should be remitted in the district affected by the expenses attendant upon the repair of these dykes, and the floods that their delapidated condition has caused.

(3) A decree summoning to Peking the General of the Têng-chow Brigade in Shantung, whom the Governor reports to be unsuited to that particular post.

October 27th.—(1) A decree directing the seizure of the estate and personal property of certain district and department Magistrates in Shantung, who have been denounced by the Governor for non-payment of arrears of taxes due by them. They are at the same time to be dismissed and imprisoned pending payment of the sums respectively owing by them.

(2) A decree appointing K'i Hün 奇勳 to the post of General of the Têng-chow Brigade in Shantung.

(3) Memorial from the Prince of Kung and his colleagues, the members of the Grand Council, soliciting the bestowal of honorary rewards upon certain officials to whom the duty has been entrusted for the past five years of drawing up registers of the numerous decrees, council despatches, and other documents belonging to the archives of the Council, as well as correcting and setting in order the old registers.—Granted by decree earlier issued.

(4) Yü Lu, Governor of Anhwei, submits a return of duties collected at Wuhu during the year ending on the 30th June last. These amount in all to Tls. 135,002, which is a slight increase on the collection of the previous year, but still far short of what used to be collected. This is accounted for by the fact that the country has not yet resumed its original condition of prosperity, previous to the rebellion, while the institution of a new or foreign Custom-house has diverted a certain portion of the duties.

October 28th.—(1) A decree ordering the property of certain District Magistrates in Anhwei, who have failed to render the amount of taxes for which they are responsible, to be attached and their families respectively proceeded against for the sums thus due.

(2) Sung Lin, *Yi hsün tao*, or Intendant of Postal Circuit in Fêng-t'ien, reports his arrival at Newchwang and assumption of the duties of the Superintendent of the Shanghai Customs barrier, with the Intendancy of the Fêng Kin circuit. While thanking His Majesty for selecting him, he feels that his capabilities hardly fit him for the performance of such responsible duties as this office entails.

(3) An appeal case reported by the Court of Censors. Chang Chên-kao, a native of the Li-chu'an district in Hupeh, states that his father and one Lo Yu-k'i had long been on unfriendly terms. A cousin of the latter was betrothed to Wang Shu-wên, appellant's father having been the go-between or matchmaker. When the customary betrothal presents were sent to the girl, appellant's father went to the house of Lo Yu-k'i [to which these were sent] and found that Lo had a number of men concealed in the house, who set upon appellant's father and wounded him with knives and sticks, attacking appellant also when he went to his father's rescue. They then dragged his father into the kitchen and beat him so severely that he then and there died. The usual story of bribery and corruption follows, and the appellant, finding it impossible to get redress either locally or at any of the higher courts, brought his case to Peking.

October 29th.—(1) A decree depriving Fu Show-tan, Judge of Honan, of one step of commutative rank, and ordering that he be removed from his post and employed elsewhere.

(2) The Prince of Tun, Chancellor of the Imperial Board of Astronomy, and his colleagues respectfully submit a matter for His Majesty's information. On the 15th of October they received a memorandum slip from the Grand Council, stating that on that day the Council had received a verbal command that the Imperial Board of Astronomy were reverently to select an auspicious moment in the 3rd moon of next year (March to April, 1879) for depositing the remains of Their late Majesties in their place of everlasting rest. In reverent obedience to this command, they have, in conformity with the [rules laid down in the] *K'in Ting Sieh Ki Pien Fang*, or "The Authorised Guide to Divination," published under Imperial patronage, selected the 28th April, or the day under the cyclical characters 庚午, and the *mao* period (5 to 7 a.m.) of that day, ruled over by the Yü T'ang spirit, as the time for depositing the remains of Their Majesties in their everlasting resting place. On the day in question the auspicious spirits in power are *Yüeh Ngên*, *Shih Tê*, *T'ien Wu*, *Fu Tê*, and *Ming Fei*. It has been ascertained that *Ming Fei* is the spirit under whose rule it will be most auspicious to deposit, so that the *ki mao* period of the *kêng wu* day of the *wu ch'en* moon of the *ki mao* year is in every possible respect the most favourable that can be obtained. Decree already issued.

(3) Postscript memorial from Mei K'i-chao, Governor of Chêkiang. He has been informed by the Grand Council that a decree had been issued directing him to give effect to a suggestion of a Tutor of the academy that $40,000 or $50,000 should be raised for the relief of the distress by famine in Chihli by an increased tax on raw silk. He has now respectfully to observe with reference to their decree that at the request of Li Hung-chang he gave orders for a contribution of $2 per bale to be levied on Chêkiang silk, contributors being rewarded in the manner laid down in the regulations by which contributions to Chihli are recognised. Subsequent to the imposition of this tax or contribution, the Intendant in charge of the *lekin* collectorate reported that there had been a great falling off in the quality of the silk produced during the past few years, accompanied by a dullness of demand on the part of foreign buyers, and that if in addition to the tax of $1.50 for repairs to the sea wall, which has this year been imposed, a further contribution of $2 for Chihli be demanded, people will begin to complain of the heavy *lekin*, and the impost will be followed by suggestions for the levy of a similar amount for Shansi and Honan, in which case there is grave reason to apprehend that both Chinese and Foreign silk merchants will endeavour to evade the burden by roundabout dealing that will be prejudicial to the regular levy. As, however, where so important a region as the metropolitan province, the root or centre of the Empire, is concerned, memorialist would not venture to regard matters through the film of his own perception, he has set apart half of the amount raised for sea wall works, as a contribution to the Chihli fund, of which $20,000 have already been forwarded and $10,000 more will shortly follow.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

October 30th.—(1) A decree appointing Sü Ying-jung 許應鑅 to the post of Judge of Honan *vice* Fu Show-tan, removed.

(2) A decree directing the sum of Tls. 3,600 to be paid out of the sums at interest in the hands of the office of the Imperial Household for the purchase of wadded jackets for the poor in Peking, to which is to be added an instalment from the Ch'ang-lu salt revenue.

(3) Wang Sin 王昕 is appointed Supervising Censor of the Board of Ceremonies.

(4) A decree ordering the customary donations of millet to be served out to the various gruel kitchens that are opened each winter in Peking.

(5) A decree. The Court of Censors memorialise that the second class Secretary, one Yang Ngên-hai, and others have submitted a work entitled *Ch'ou-ki-p'ien* or "The way to render succour," written by Yang King-jên, grandfather of Ngên-hai. It was handed over to the Committee of the College of Inscriptions for perusal, and that body now report that this book enters most minutely into the question of administration in times of famine, and is indeed a work of utility. Yang Ngên-hai further states that the blocks for printing this work are in process of cutting at his native place and are nearly finished. As soon as these blocks are complete, let Shên Pao-chêng and Wu Yuan-ping see that a certain number of copies are printed and forwarded to the different provincial authorities. Let the original copy sent in be retained for our perusal.

(6) The Governor of Ch'ahar applies for permission to release an ex-captain who had been condemned to servitude on the military post road, as he has served for three years and paid the sum of Tls. 1,591 due by him for *t'ai fei* or station expenses. —Granted by Rescript.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a voluminous report of the re-hearing of a manslaughter case by the acting Governor of Shêng-king, which had been referred from the Court of Censors. Two men had a quarrel over money matters and fought, when one of them was kicked in the stomach and died shortly after. His antagonist, foreseeing trouble, dragged the dead man to his own house and hanged him to a tree, hoping thereby to lead people to believe that he had committed suicide.

Oct. 31st.—(1) A Decree. Yang Chung-ya, Governor of Kwang-si, reports that the district of Hwai-yuan was invaded last June by a band of robbers. They were driven out of the place, but two months later they returned and again created much alarm. The Governor is commanded to use every endeavour to seize the chief, Wu K'ai-hsien by name; and meantime Colonel Yang Tzü-ki, through whose want of energy it was that the brigands were able to return, is stripped of his rank, and threatened with severe punishment unless within a certain time he succeed in apprehending the brigands still at large.

(2) Tsêng Ki-tsê, the Envoy to England, is named Sub-director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship.

(3) Kiang Ki-chu is appointed Taotai of the Chi-Nan-Kung-Ning circuit in Kiangsi.

(4) Kuei-ch'ing and Pi Tao-yuan, the two Superintendents of the Peking Granaries, submit a memorial on the condition of the Grand Canal. Of late years, they state, every attention has been paid to the transport of tribute grain by sea, whereas the condition of the canal has been neglected to such an extent that it soon threatens to become utterly useless. With no one man responsible for its efficiency, but on the contrary every district acting for itself, there can be no unanimity of purpose; and with no special fund for repairs, the work is merely patched up as necessary, and for the rest trust is placed in providence. The canal has silted up so much that it no longer looks like one, and the inflow from the Yellow River can no longer be depended upon. A special fund for repairs is a necessity, and if each province be made to divert to the canal fund a portion of its grain tax there would be something on which to count. The next step would be to appoint some person who would be solely responsible for the state of the canal. He would study its features and decide what work was to be first undertaken. If these suggestions be approved, the superintendent of the grain transport service is the proper person for the work. He is in a position to ascertain what is required, and has under his orders all the officials connected with the transport service. It may be objected that considering the small quantity of rice, and the insignificant number of boats passing through the canal, the measures proposed are on an unnecessarily large scale, but if the three provinces of Kiang-su, Chêhkiang, and Anhwei be each made to send by canal some hundred thousand *tan* of grain, there would then be three or four hundred thousand *tan* to be conveyed yearly, instead of some tens of thousands, as now. If the proposed plan be not adopted, and some 800 or 1,000 miles of canal have to be kept in order for the sake of the small quantity of grain now conveyed from the districts north of the Yangtsze, the end will be that the canal will cease to be navigable. If the canal transport is to be maintained, Kiangsu

and Chêhkiang must also use that means of conveyance; and to keep the canal in a proper condition there must be money specially devoted to the purpose, and one official specially charged with the superintendence of the work. The memorialists, in conclusion, beg that the question be referred to the proper Board for consideration.

[A Decree so referring it appeared in the *Gazette* of 16th Oct.]

(5) The acting Military Governor of Manchuria reports the capture of a noted brigand who for years past has been the scourge of the provinces of Sheng King and Kirin. Numerous attempts have been made to destroy the formidable band, of which Chao Sii-lai is the leader, but owing to the skill of the brigands in the use of foreign weapons with which they were armed, these repeated attempts resulted in severe loss to the Imperial forces. At last, in September last, with the help of spies, the whereabouts of Chao Sii-lai was discovered, and a lucky shot in an encounter brought him down off his horse. His head has been sent round to be exhibited at the various scenes of his crimes, and unremitting efforts are being made to utterly exterminate the band which for so long has been the terror of the country.

Nov. 1st.—(1) A decree. To the vacant Prefecture of Nan-ch'ang-fu, let the Governor of Kiangsi appoint one of the Prefects under his jurisdiction, and let Pin-kien fill the vacancy thus made.

The remainder of the *Gazette* is taken up with a long memorial from the Governor of Shansi, giving the result of his inquiries into the conduct of several officials who had been charged with carelessness or fraud in the distribution of relief in the famine districts.

Nov. 2nd.—(1) The Governor of the Metropolitan Prefecture gives notice that next year a whole cycle will have elapsed since Ts'üan-ts'ing, President of the Board of Punishments and Assistant Grand Secretary, took his degree as *Küjen*. He thus becomes entitled, a second time, to the entertainment bestowed on successful candidates after their examination.

(2) Mu Tu-shan, Military Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar, reports that an ex-official named Shen Shih-yuan, who had been banished to a military station in Mongolia, had delivered himself to the authorities some months after he had been missed from the station. He was suspected of having made his escape, but the account he gave of himself was that finding himself destitute of money and clothes he went off in search of a fellow provincial to get some money from him. He was taken ill on the road, and then lost his way. Not knowing where to go, he had made his way back to the military station and delivered himself up. Mu T'u-shan quotes a precedent, when in a similar case of a criminal having surrendered himself, no additional punishment was inflicted; and he requests that the same course may now be followed, a request which is granted.

(3) The Governor-General of Fuh-kien sends up a list of the names of persons entitled to rewards for their subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers by the floods at Foochow in the summer of 1877. The amount subscribed was Tls. 11,101, exclusive of the sums contributed by officials of the provincial government.

(4) The President of the Censorate prays that an inquiry may be made into a case of extortion with regard to which an appeal has been made to his department. According to the statement of the appellants, who are natives of the district of Lö-ch'ing in Chêhkiang, the receivers of the land tax, so far back as 1874, under the pretext that the price of grain had risen, required the landowners to pay an additional tax of 25 per cent. This they refused to do, whereupon the tax officers declined to take over the grain. An appeal was made to the authorities, who, acting on false information, decided that for the future $\frac{6}{10}$ of the tax should be paid in kind, and $\frac{4}{10}$ in money. They, however, omitted to declare the surplus levy to be illegal, neither did they fix the rate at which the $\frac{4}{10}$ of the tax was to be commuted. Emboldened by the decision of the authorities, the underlings have become more and more extortionate; and the original dispute which arose in 1874 remains unsettled. Meanwhile the rice then weighed in has become damaged by damp, and an attempt is being made to hold the petitioners responsible. The President of the Censorate prays that the matter may be sifted to the bottom, and in compliance with this request a decree appeared in the *Gazette* of the 17th October last calling for an investigation.

Nov. 3rd.—(1) Yen King-ming, Famine Commissioner in Shansi, now that the crisis of the famine is past, asks for three months' sick leave. Should any emergency make his presence necessary, he will be ready to confer with the Governor of the province at any moment.—Granted.

(2) Yü Shih, Imperial Controller-General at Si-ning, represents that of the amount

which he was entitled to receive from Honan, Shantung, and the Hwai Salt Department for the pay of his troops, only about 40 per cent. has reached him. There is still the sum of 1,417,378 taels remaining due to his force, which he is now about to disband. During their nine years' stay in the barren and inhospitable region of Si-ning, his men have become inured to hardships, and upon representing to them the impossibility of paying them off, they appreciated the difficulty, and with great patriotism volunteered in a body to forego the pay due to them and make an offering of it to the State, without looking for any reward.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue note the fact.

(3) The Governor of Shansi reports a case of parricide. The son, Yang Pao-wan, incurred the displeasure of his father by idleness and dissipation, and on one occasion meeting him on his return from a bout, the father struck him and threatened to kill him if he did not mend his ways. Yang Pao-wan made off and bided his time. Some time after, hearing that his father felt inclined to eat dumplings, an idea occurred to him. He went out, bought half a pound of flour and a few grains of arsenic, mixed the two together, and made three large dumplings. When they were cooked and ready, he took them to his father's house as a respectful offering, and left. Just about that time, Yang's sister came in, and the father gave her one of the dumplings to eat. In a few moments they both felt violent pains, and the next day the poison proved fatal. Suspicion was fastened upon Yang Pao-wan, inquiries were set on foot, and the truth came out. He has been sentenced to die by the *ling-ch'ih* process (slicing to death.)

(4) The Governor of the metropolitan prefecture requests that honour may be done to the memory of certain officials who have sacrificed their lives in succouring their fellow creatures. When in the spring and summer of the present year, it was found that thousands of starving creatures were flocking to Peking, certain humane-minded individuals by way of supplementing the efforts of the Government, opened establishments for the reception of young children and the treatment of the sick. Of those who survived while ministering to the wants of the sick and needy, nothing need here be said, but there were some who while tending others fell victims themselves, and it is these whose noble devotion should not be forgotten. Themselves, they did their work without an afterthought; but it is not in human nature to see such rare instances of devotion pass unnoticed, and Their Majesties are requested to direct that the deeds of the individuals mentioned may be recorded in the Official Annals of the Districts to which they respectively belonged. [A decree directing that this be done appeared in the *Gazette* of the 19th Oct.]

Nov. 4th.—(1) A Decree. In Tin Pao-chen's memorial respecting Kwei-chow salt, some sentences were repeated, while others were disconnected. In answer to Our commands to express himself clearly, he now submits a memorial accusing himself of carelessness in failing to discover these mistakes, and begs that he may be severely punished. We graciously take the more lenient course of referring his offence to the proper Board.

(2) Yen King-ming, Famine Commissioner in Shansi, reports having investigated the series of charges brought against Chu K'un, Sub-Prefect of the Department of Pao-te Chou in Shansi. Many of the charges were unfounded, but there is still enough against him to justify his dismissal. He has been accused of opium smoking, but as the Commissioner has never seen the man, he is not able to say whether this charge is true or false. He shewed partiality in giving relief; when the famine was at its worst, he gave theatrical entertainments in honour of his wife's birthday; he allowed one of his underlings to invite subscriptions for a present for himself; and he is in arrears with the land-tax. It is requested that the individual may be dismissed, without option of rehabilitating himself by future services.

(3) The Governor-General of Fuhkien submits a list of subscriptions to the Foochow Flood Relief Fund of last year. In the province of Fuhkien there was subscribed by officials and gentry the sum of Tls. 180,641, and the contributions from other provinces amounted to Tls. 13 811, besides large donations of rice which are not included in the above. Over and above, there is to be added a contribution by Lin Wei-yuan (林維源), of Tai-wan, of 15,000 piculs of rice, "paid for out of the sum which this person undertook to subscribe towards the expenses of the railway."

(4) Ming An, Military Governor of Kirin, reports the extermination of a band of outlaws, whose retreat was in the ravines near San-sing. For years they have resisted all authority; they gained a livelihood by gold-digging, and when hard pressed they took up arms and defied the soldiery.

Their stronghold has now been captured, the leaders beheaded, and the workmen whom they employed to dig for gold have been sent to gain a living in some other way. The memorialist recalls the suggestion made by him last year, that the gold mines should be taken in hand by the Government; with a view to that end he has sent competent officials to survey the place, whose report will be submitted when completed.

Nov. 5th.—(1) A Decree. Kwei Feng (桂豐), Assistant Resident in Tibet, is directed to return to Peking, and Si Chên (錫綝) is appointed in his stead, and directed to proceed to his post with all haste.

Nov. 6th.—(1) A Decree. At the request of the Governor-General of the Two Kiang, Chang Ts'ung-lung (張從龍) is retained in Kiang-nan for service in connection with the defences of the Hwai and Hsü districts, and Li Wên-yi (李文益) is appointed to succeed him as Brigadier-General of T'êng-yüeh, in Yünnan (騰越鎮.)

(2) A Decree. Shên Pao-chên, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, reports that Wên Pao-shen, formerly Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, is about to see the sixtieth anniversary of his taking his degree. A button of the first order is conferred upon him, and in accordance with usage, he is allowed to participate in the entertainment given to the successful candidates at the next examination for the degree of the same class.

(3) A Decree. Until Si Chên's arrival in Tibet, to take up his post as Assistant Resident, let Sung Kwei, the Imperial Resident, discharge the duties of his office. (See yesterday's *Gazette*.)

(4) A Decree. The Governor of Shantung reports that the river banks in the department of K'ai-chow (開州), in Chih-li, have burst, and laid under water the districts of P'u-fan (濮范) and Shou-yang (壽陽) in Shantung. Let Wen Ko cause relief to be distributed in the suffering districts, and let Li Hung-chang see to the immediate repair of the bank in his province.

(5) Yü Shih, Imperial Controller-General of Kokonor, states that after disbanding his force he waited for a long time for the arrival of the funds with which he was to defray the expenses of his men's return home. The province of Shantung and the Hwai Salt Office had been directed each to send the sum of Tls. 50,000. He learns that a portion of this amount is on its way, but as he must proceed to take up his new post at Urumtsi he has been compelled to borrow Tls. 40,000 from Liu Tien, late assistant administrator of military affairs in Turkestan, and Tls. 30,000 from a bank at Lan-chow Fu, in order to enable his men to go back to their own homes.

He adds that about 300 officers and men who have served under him many years have entreated him to allow them to follow him to Urumtsi, where he has been named Lieutenant-General. They even offer to pay their own expenses out of the allowance granted them for their journey home. He is now taking them as far as Su-chow Fu, where he will be able to ascertain whether he can take them on to Urumtsi.

(6) The Governor of Shensi reports that in August last considerable damage was done in several districts by violent hail storms. In some instances the crops have been entirely ruined, in others they have suffered more or less severely. He has taken steps to afford relief to the sufferers.

(7) The Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chêhkiang reports having sent the sum of 10,000 taels to Honan for the relief of the famine districts. He incidentally mentions that the sum of $260,000 subscribed by one Lin Wei-yuan (林維源) in Formosa, has been already sent to Li Hung-chang for transmission to Honan, together with the unappropriated balance of the money subscribed at Shanghai for the relief of the sufferers by the floods at Foochow last year.

Nov. 7th.—(1) The Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chêhkiang begs that an officer may be appointed to fill the place of Pei Kin Ts'üan (貝錦泉), Commodore on the Hai-t'an Station (海壇), in Fuhkien, who has been compelled to go into mourning retirement by the death of his father. Pending the appointment of a successor, the Governor-General has sent an officer named Liu Kwang-ming (劉光明) to act as Commodore.

(2) The Governor of Shansi suggests a plan by which the receipts from the sale of rank and office may be increased. He obtained permission last year to open an office for the sale of rank in T'ai-yuan-fu, but the amount collected in this way proves to be very insignificant. This is to be accounted for partly by the gradual disappearance of wealthy persons, but another

reason is that those who might be willing to purchase rank are prevented by distance from coming to the provincial capital. To afford the public greater facilities, the Governor has sanctioned the opening of a branch office at Yün Ch'eng (運城) a large place of business, where certificates will be issued and money received in the same way as at the head office in T'ai-yuan-fu.

(3) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, submits a statement showing what has been done for the relief of the districts in Ho-kien-fu, in the South of Chihli. He states that he appointed certain officials to assist the local authorities in distributing the Government aid which he appointed to that district. Altogether he sent 140,000 *tan* of grain, and Tls. 85,000; but this was far from sufficient for the wants of the starving people. Subscriptions were invited by Wu Ta-ch'eng (吳大澂), and the other officials whom he has sent to superintend the distribution of relief, and amongst the sums received were Tls. 9,991 collected by Hia Tu'ng-shan, Vice-President of the Board of War; Tls. 10,000 from the officials in the province of Chihli; Tls. 1,560, collected by Chang Chih-tung; Tls. 1,000, by Wang Ming-lan; Tls. 500, by Hung Chun; Tls. 1,000, by Fei Yen-li; Tls. 1,000, from the Governor of Kiangsu; Tls. 500, from the Superintendent of the Arsenal at Foochow; Tls. 600, from Li Ch'ang-yo, Commander-in-chief in Hupeh; Tls. 1,000, from General T'ang Ting-kw'ei in Fuhkien; Tls. 1,000, from General Wu Ch'ang-ch'ing of Chihli; Tls. 1,500, from Kwang-yung (Hu *taotai*); Tls. 3,000, collected by the same; Tls. 1,000, from Li Chao-t'ang, ex Judicial Commissioner of Chihli; 3,000 *tiao* and Tls. 200, from Teng Show-ch'ang, the present Judicial Commissioner; Tls. 1,769, from certain gentry in Kiangsu. The above sums were collected and received by Wu Ta-ch'eng. In addition, the Taotai Sheng Hsüan-hwai (盛宣懷) subscribed 4,000 *tiao*, and collected Tls. 1,000, $1,000, and 500 *tiao*; certain benevolent societies in Shanghai, Canton, and Chêhkiang contributed in all the sum of Tls. 25,030 and 15,000 *tiao*; and from contributors in some districts of Kiangsu there was received Tls. 15,060, making a total of Tls. 74,211; $1,000 and 22,500 *tiao* (strings of cash); not counting the amount collected locally and that subscribed by foreigners.

Nov. 8th.—(1) A decree. Wu Tsan-ch'eng (吳贊誠) is appointed President of the Banqueting Court, but is directed to continue to act as Governor of Fuhkien.

(2) Lu Chu'an-lin (鹿傳霖) is named Prefect of Lien-chow-fu (廉州府), in Kwangtung.

(3) Ming An, the Acting Military Governor of the province of Kirin, in Manchuria, submits a memorial recommending the reorganization of the civil administration of his province on the model adopted in the province of Sheng-king two years ago. No sort of order, he begins by stating, exists in Kirin; brigandage is the recognized state of things; the people have grown accustomed to it, and accept lawlessness and insecurity of life and property as the normal condition of the province. It is better, he argues, to strike at the root of things; better to remove the source of evil than to attempt to deal with the evil itself; better to govern the people properly, than to inflict punishment for the results of misgovernment. The province of Kirin, he points out, is more than 2,000 *li* from East to West, and the same distance from North to South. The great bulk of the population is Manchu; civilization is unknown in the remoter regions; might is right; and robbery and incendiarism are taken as a matter of course. At present in the cities and districts lying to the North-west of the province, the control of the people is entrusted to Manchu Military Officials, who care merely for martial accomplishments; who know nothing about civil government; and who frequently, even, are ignorant of the Chinese language. Very beneficial results have followed upon the changes instituted by the former Military Governor of Sheng-king; to adapt oneself to the circumstances of the times, and not adhere blindly to a fixed rule, is the policy which may be now profitably pursued. After frequent deliberations with the late Governor-General of Sheng-king, and after taking the advice of persons in a position to form a just opinion, the conclusion come to by the memorialist is that in a vast tract of country thickly populated, no sort of order can rule unless there be officials specially appointed to govern the people. Times and circumstances have changed, and it is better to adapt oneself to these, than to "continue obstinately along a certain road, until one's carriage is overturned." The changes which suggest themselves as more pressing are that Prefects, Magistrates, and subordinate civil officials, should be appointed in such districts as are more thickly populated, to supersede the Manchu military authorities

in purely civil affairs ; the latter being left to deal with the suppression of brigandage, and Manchu matters. The memorialist proposes to proceed very gradually ; any extra expense incurred in carrying out the suggested modifications should be borne by the province itself ; the pay of civil officers, the construction of offices, the building of city walls, should all come out of the taxation of the several districts, and circumspection must be exercised in devising the best means of raising a revenue. With a view to that end, the memorialist is desd patching officers to survey the uncultivated lands about Shu-li Ch'ang, 蘆梨廠), Ma-yen Ho, (馬延河) and A-k'o-tun Ch'eng (阿克敦城), in order that it may be ascertained what revenue may be derived from the land-tax. The general plan for remodelling the government of the province is embodied in the four articles annexed, which the memorialist begs may be referred to the proper Boards for consideration. [The four articles referred to are not published.] Rescript : Let the proper Boards consider and report.

(4) The Governor of Shansi requests that from November, 1878, to July, 1879, no tax be levied in the province of Shansi on oxen used in agriculture. The Government of the province has sent officials to purchase cattle, but it is only amongst the very poorest farmers that these can be distributed. Those who have any means of their own must purchase animals for themselves. Of late years the cattle fairs have been but poorly attended ; the cattle tax and the price of fodder combined have deterred dealers from bringing in their stock. The remission of the duty will, it is hoped, encourage dealers to attend the fairs in greater numbers, and it would be well worth while to forego the small amount of duty usually taken if the farmers are put in the way of resuming their agricultural operations :—Granted by Rescript.

Nov. 9th.—(1) Court Circular. Pao Heng, Lieutenant Governor (Treasurer) of Shansi, pays his respects on arrival in Peking. He has audience the same day.

(2) A Decree. At the end of last year We issued a Decree commanding the Heads of Departments to go regularly to their respective offices, punctually to the hour, so that they might give good example to their subordinates. Of late We have frequently questioned the Heads of Departments who have come before Us, and they have invariably replied that they attend daily at their respective offices. At the same time, careful inquiry in other quarters shows that they have relapsed into the old groove. Some go to their offices once in a time, while others attend for a few minutes merely as a matter of form. If any document has to be prepared, they either make the Secretaries bring it to their private residences, or they look through it and sign it in the outer office ; but how is it possible in a few seconds to give any document the attention it deserves ? The Presidents of the various Boards are under heavy obligations to the State for the favours they have received, and should exert themselves to give evidence of their gratitude. Instead of so doing, they take their ease, and manifest no interest in their duties, treating Our commands and warnings as a merely formal utterance of words. Thus is it that arrears of business accumulate, and abuses continue to exist. To make light of most important duties has grown to be the rule. For the future We require the Heads of Departments to give implicit obedience to Our commands. They must attend regularly at their offices and give careful consideration to the business before them, that thus the efforts of the State in the Government of the country may be seconded. These commands are to be made generally known.

(3) P'eng Yü-lin, Inspector General of the Yangtsze, sends up a long memorial giving his opinion in a matter that has been the cause of much dispute in the district of Wu-ch'ang (武昌縣) in Hupeh. A narrow inlet at a place called Fank'ow, (樊口) on the Yangtsze, admits the water into the low lying lands, which are annually submerged for hundreds of miles. This inlet it is the interest of the agricultural population to close, while the fishing people claim that it should remain open. P'eng Yü-lin having received instructions while at Kwa-chow to proceed to the spot and view matters for himself, states that immediately on the receipt of his orders he started off in an ordinary boat, dressed as a private individual, and in this character carried on his enquiries. He begins by describing the locality. Inland, south of the river banks, is the Lian-tzŭ lake (梁子湖), in the centre of which lies an island with a village of considerable dimensions. When the Yangtsze is low, the circumference of the lake is about 100 miles, and from the lake radiate in every direction creeks and channels forming water communication with districts north, east,

south and west. The whole of this water system is fed through the Fan-k'ow inlet. In Summer when the Yangtsze rises, the whole country bordering on the lake is laid under water, and the suffering of the people who are driven away by the floods is something indescribable. Of the submerged tracts, about one half lie in the district of Wu-ch'ang Hsien; if the people could be guaranteed immunity from floods, they would every year put over 300,000 *tan* of seed into the ground. In a fairly good year this would yield a crop of over 3,000,000 *tan* of grain. This in the Wu-ch'ang district alone; and the other districts together would yield an equal quantity. Thus the annual production of 6,000,000 *tan* of grain depends entirely on the construction of a dyke at the Fan-k'ow inlet. With a dyke the people will have this amount of food; without it, the weak must die, and the sturdy live by robbery. The arguments in support of constructing a dyke are sufficiently convincing, but yet there are those who hold different views; and for this reason :—A portion of the population makes a living by fishing, and to them the closing of the inlet means the loss of their livelihood. Moreover, the local traders fear that land transport would cost them more than water carriage. This is true to a certain extent, but the interests of a small minority cannot be allowed to outweigh those of the bulk of the population. After giving the matter his most careful consideration, the conclusion he has come to is that the old dyke between Hwang-poh Shan (黃栢山) and Fan-k'ow should be rebuilt on its old foundations, and that a stone sluice should be constructed inside the entrance of the Fan-k'ow inlet, in order that the water may be let in or out as circumstances render necessary. [A Decree in the *Gazette* of the 26th October instructed the Governor-General of Hu-kwang to carry out P'eng Yü-lin's suggestions.]

(4) A supplementary memorial from the same official requests that the acting Magistrate of Wu-ch'ang Hsien, Liu Tu-ch'ing (劉篤慶) by name, who had been deprived of his rank in connection with the above affair, may be pardoned, considering that his action, reprehensible though it was, proceeded from good motives.

(5) Ch'eng Fu (成孚), the newly appointed Judicial Commissioner of Kwang-tung, reports having taken over the seals of office on the 4th of August last.

Nov. 10th.—(1) Sing-lien (興廉) is appointed Assistant Supervisor of Instruction.

(2) A Decree directs that ten sticks of Tibetan incense be burnt at the temple of the River God by way of thanksgiving for the safety of the banks of the Grand Canal up to the *Shwang-kiang* period.

Nov. 11th.—(1) Weng T'ung-ho, member of the Censorate; T'o-yün, Lieut.-General of the Bordered Yellow Banner; Wang Wen-shao, Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies; and Ch'eng-lin, Comptroller of the Imperial Household, are permitted to ride within the forbidden city.

(2) The Governor-General of Hu-kwang reports the execution of the ringleaders of a band of marauders who had taken advantage of the distress caused by the famine in Honan to pillage the country in Têng-chow, on the border between Hupeh and Hunan. The officers who distinguished themselves on the occasion are recommended for favourable notice.

(3) The same officer reports the arrest and summary execution of one T'an Yö-yün, an expectant Magistrate, who had given himself out to be commissioned to buy timber for gunboats; and to aid him in his purpose had forged a seal and letter of instructions. He had already cut down timber to the value of several thousand taels, and made it up into rafts, when he was discovered and apprehended. The scene of his crime was the district of K'i-yang (祈陽) and there he was put to death.

(4) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, requests that the Magistrate of Wu-k'iao Hsien, Wu Chi-kün (吳積銛) by name, whose button had been removed for malpractices in connection with the famine relief operations, may be forgiven his misdeeds in consideration of the zeal he has displayed since the commission of his offence. Request granted.

(5) Wên Koh, Governor of Shantung, who had been directed to report upon the fitness of General Ch'ên Tsê-fu (陳擇輔) for the post he now holds of Brigadier General at Têng-chow (登州), states that the opinion he formed after personally conversing with the officer in question is that he is scarcely suited for the post; not that any charge has to be brought against him, but because, considering the importance of the duties to be performed and the responsibility of the situation, the man is hardly equal to the requirements expected of him.

[By decree in the *Gazette* of the 26th Oct., he was directed to come to Peking and have audience.]

Nov. 12th.—(1) Court Circular.—T'e-erh-ch'ing-ah receives his parting instructions before leaving to take up his post as Commandant of the forces at Tarbagatai.

(2) The Governor of the Metropolitan Prefecture reports a fall of over an inch of snow.

(3) A Decree. The Governor of Honan reports the arrest and summary decapitation of a man named Li Chang-ho, who had been found guilty of decoying away unhappy women and girls rendered homeless by the famine, whom he used for his own vile purposes, or disposed of to others. At the time of his capture over forty women were set at liberty. Let the Governor continue to be on the look-out for such cases, and punish the offenders without mercy. Now that there are so many homeless creatures wandering over the country, it is possible that the same thing is going on in other Provinces. Let the authorities be on the watch and show no mercy to the guilty.

(4) A Decree. Yen-sün, Lieut.-General at Jehol, requests that sacrifice may be made to the deity of the Lung-shên temple, in the city of Ch'eng-tê-fu, who sent down rain immediately that prayers were offered up. Let the local authorities make sacrifice every spring and autumn.

(5) The Governor-General of the Yellow River requests that a tablet may be put up in honour of the River God. He states that during the transmission of relief rice from Tientsin to Honan, whenever difficulties were encountered on account of shallows, wind, or rain, the River God interposed in the most unmistakeable manner, so that the transport of grain went on without hindrance. Let the proper office prepare a tablet for the Governor-General to erect in the temple of the River God.

(6) A Decree. The Board of Works requests that the province of Shantung may be called upon to make good a deficit of 50,250 taels which it owes on account of the construction of the tomb of the late Emperor and the late Empress. Let the Governor of the Province make good the amount without delay; and should he be unable to send the whole amount at once, let him send up 20,000 or 30,000 taels before the end of the year.

(7) A Decree. Let the *Beileh* Tsai-ch'eng, (son of the Prince of Kung), proceed with ten officers of the Guard, to offer libations at the coffin of Ying Han, whose body has now reached Peking.

(8) In consequence of certain disturbances in the province of An-hwei, in 1876, the people in several districts fortified their villages and put up stockades. When order had been restored, it was feared that evil-doers would make use of these entrenched places as a base of operations, and the Governor of the province deputed certain officials to take them one by one, and allow only those whose headmen were persons of good reputation to stand; the others were to be levelled, and the occupants were to be enrolled in the register of the nearest authorized stockade. In this manner the disaffected districts have been reduced to order, and all bad characters driven out of the place. The officials recommended to favourable notice as having been most zealous in carrying out the orders of the Governor are Lu Sien-sün (陸顯勳), sub-Prefect of Shou-chow (壽州); Ho Ts'ing-chao (何慶釗), sub-Prefect of Su-chow (宿州); and Meu Chung-pien (繆鐘汴), Magistrate of Ying-shang (潁上縣.)

(9) Yü-lu, Governor of Anhwei, transmits the prayer of P'an Ting-sin, the late Governor of Yünnan, that he may be allowed to defer his attendance at Court until he has recovered from his present illness. On vacating his post in Yünnan, he obtained permission to return to his native province of Anhwei to repair the family tombs, on the completion of which duty he should have proceeded to report himself at Peking.

Nov. 13th.—(1) An extra month's pay is granted to the troops in and about Peking, as is customary every winter.

(2) The sum of fifty taels per month for the three winter months is granted to the officials employed in the Historiographer's Department, over and above their regular pay.

(3) Yü Shih, Imperial Agent at Si-ning, and recently appointed acting Lieutenant-General at Urumtsi, is permitted to retire on account of ill-health; in his stead Kung T'ang (恭鎕) is to act as Lieutenant-General at Urumtsi.

(4) The officers on duty on the 10th instant, on the occasion of the destruction by fire of one of the granaries known as Pei-hsin-ts'ang in Peking, are handed over to the proper Board for punishment, and are directed to make good the damage caused by the fire.

(5) The Governor of Kwang-si recommends for the vacant post of sub-Prefect of Ning-ming Chow (甯明州), on the borders of An-nam, an officer named Wang Ping-shên (王鈵紳), who is in every respect well-suited for the post. This sub-Prefecture is at all times an important one, but particularly so at the present moment, when the disturbed state of affairs on the border render measures of precaution a matter of urgency.

(6) The Governor of Shantung, in obedience to instructions issued at the instance of the Board of Revenue, reports on the condition of the spirit trade in the province. He is of opinion that the plan suggested by the Board for gradually closing the distilleries is preferable to a sudden interdict on the trade. By way of putting a stop to the excessive waste of food which spirit distilling entails, the Governor proposes to have all the distilleries now open, registered. Licenses will be issued to each, and as these will not be transferable nor new ones hereafter issued, the result expected is that the trade will gradually die out. In this way consideration will be shown to the trade, while, at the same time, the interests of the people at large will be consulted. So much grain kept out of the distilleries will be so much food-stuff saved. The proposal, therefore, is that from the present year the existing establishments will be allowed to die out, while no new ones will be permitted to be opened.

Nov. 14th.—(1) Si Ch'ang (喜昌) is given the rank of Lieutenant-General, and appointed Imperial Agent at Si-ning.

(2) The Governor of An-hwei forwards a petition from the gentry of Fêng-yang-fu and Ying-chow praying that sacrifices may be offered to the late Famine Commissioner in Honan, Yuan Pao-heng, in the temple already erected in memory of his father. The father had been Superintendent of the Grain Transport, and had greatly distinguished himself in operations against the rebels in the province of An-hwei; his son attached himself to him, and was always to be seen in the thickest of the fight. For his bravery the Emperor T'ung-chih conferred upon him the order of the *Baturu*. With the greatest grief the gentry of the districts in which Yuan Pao-heng displayed so much valour, have heard of his death while superintending relief operations in Honan; and they earnestly pray that orders may be given that sacrifices be offered to him at the same time as to the father. Granted.

(3) The Military Governor of Kirin reports the summary execution of three police runners in the district of Petunê. Two of them, on account of some quarrel, got together a band of armed ruffians with the intention of fighting out their quarrel in the streets of a village called Ku-yü-Shu. The inhabitants were thrown in such a state of alarm that in broad daylight they closed the gates of the walls. On another occasion, a police runner having failed in a midnight attack on a house, when two of his hired band were made prisoners, proceeded the next day with an armed force to rescue his companions, and improved the occasion by breaking into an inn and robbing the owner. The village of Ku-yü-Shu has but a mud wall; but in that it is the residence of a sub-Prefect the offence of making a raid into the place is in the eyes of the law the same as if the scene of the crime had been a walled city.

(4) Tso Tsung-t'ang, the Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh, recommends the present Taotai of the Kan-liang circuit for the vacancy at Si-ning. He had previously recommended the Prefect of Si-ning for the post of Taotai there, but the Board of Civil Office pointed out that according to regulation Si-ning is a post to be provided for by transferring a Taotai from elsewhere, and not by promoting a subordinate official. He also requests that a Taotai may be appointed to the Kan-liang circuit to replace T'ieh-shan (鉄珊), transferred to Si-ning.

(5) Tso Tsung-t'ang refers for favourable consideration an application made to him that a certain girl who died in 1469 may be canonized. Whenever rain has failed, prayers offered up at the shrine of the "girl-angel" at Pa-mi Shan have usually been successful. An enquiry into the earthly history of the girl-angel shows that she was born in the capital of Kansuh, and during her childhood lived an exemplary life; she was guiltless of a smile or any sort of levity; but, on the contrary, spent the livelong day in doing her duty. Arrived at maidenhood, her mother wished to betroth her, but the girl refused to marry, and betook herself to the Pa-mi hills, where she gave herself up to religious exercise, and nourished herself on spiritual food until she was transformed into an angel. After she had left this world, the people of the locality found that an appeal to her was invariably answered, and a temple was built in her honour. During the recent dry season, prayers for rain were always granted, thus showing that although hundreds of

years have now gone by, the maiden still watches over the locality. The memorialist is of opinion that she may well be included in the calendar, and proposes that, for the future, sacrifices may be offered to her every spring and autumn. Rescript :—Let the Board of Ceremonies report upon the matter.

(6) The Governor of An-hwei requests that honours may be done to the memory of a woman who, after the death of her husband, became unconscious and remained more or less in that state for a period of nine years. She then suddenly seemed to come round, burst a blood vessel, and died.

Nov. 15th.—(1) A Decree. Li Hung-chang, Yen King-ming, and Tseng Kuo-ts'üan submit a memorial requesting that rewards may be conferred on those officials who have exerted themselves in the famine relief operations in Shansi. Shansi has suffered more than the other provinces, and much work has been thrown upon its officials. As We directed that those who failed in their duty should be severely punished, so it is right that those who have shewn zeal and worked conscientiously should be rewarded. When all is over with the famine, let the most deserving officers who have been connected with the relief operations be recommended for rewards. This is not to be taken as a precedent by other provinces.

(2) Li Hung-chang requests that a tablet may be placed in the temple of the River God at Chang-chia-k'ow (Kalgan), in gratitude for the protection afforded whenever the place has been in danger from torrents and freshets. Let the proper office prepare a tablet to be put up in the temple.

(3) Li Hung-chang recommends that Siao Shih-pên (蕭世本), the present Magistrate of the Tientsin district, be transferred to the Ch'ing-yuan district (清苑縣), which is the most important in the province.

(4) The Governor of Kwangsi gives an account of the proceedings of a band of lawless ruffians who in June and August last caused some alarm in the district of (懷遠縣) Hwai-yuan in Kwangsi. On the first occasion they were quickly disposed of, but unfortunately the chief, Wu K'ai-sien (伍開先) by name, made good his escape. Colonel Yang Tzŭ-chi left a small force at Pai-kuo-tsùn (白果村), to guard against the return of the brigands, notwithstanding which Wu K'ai-sien reappeared in August with a large following, many of whom were dressed as Buddhist or Taoist priests, and engaged in religious exercises. With assistance from the provincial capital and the help of the local trainbands, the rebels were again scattered and their stronghold destroyed; but again Wu K'ai-sien made good his escape. Colonel Yang is to blame for allowing the banditti to return, and it is requested that he be degraded, and allowed a certain time within which to effect the capture of the rebel chief, failing which he will be denounced for severe punishment. [The Decree referring to the above appeared in the *Gazette* of the 31st Oct.]

Nov. 16th.—(1) A Decree. Yü Kw'an (裕寬) is named Governor of Fuhkien; and the Lieut.-Governor, Ming-ch'ih, is to act as Governor until his arrival.

(2) A Decree. Ming An, the Military Governor of Kirin, and Feng Yü-ki (馮譽驥), are directed to proceed with all haste to the Amur, there to inquire into and take action in a certain matter. The officers on their staff are also to travel post haste. Ch'ung K'i (崇綺), who is now in Kirin on special duty, is to act as acting Military Governor in Ming An's absence.

(3) A Decree. At his own request, Wu Tsan-ch'eng (吳贊誠) is relieved of his duties as acting Governor of Fuhkien, but continues to be Superintendent of the Arsenal.

(4) The Supervisor-General of the Board of Civil Office and his colleagues give their opinion as to the punishment that should be awarded to the Judicial Commissioner of Honan, Fu Shou-t'ung (傅壽彤), for the offence of having appointed an official already degraded to fill another office. The Magistrate of An-yang Hsien, for some mal-practices in connection with famine relief, had been degraded, when, contrary to regulations, he was directed by Fu Shou-t'ung, while acting as Lieutenant-Governor, to return to An-yang Hsien, to discharge the duties of Magistrate. For this offence, the penalty imposed by law is degradation of one step and removal from office; and this course is recommended.

(5) The Governor of Cheh-kiang reports the arrest of five out of nine criminals

who in May last broke into the Pai-kuan (百官), *lekin* station, murdered the official on duty, and carried off such money, clothes, and other articles as they could lay their hands on. The *lekin* station is in the Shang-yü (上虞縣) district, and the Magistrate reports that in addition to one of the murderers who was caught the day after the attack, four more have now been arrested. They have all been sentenced to death, and their heads are to be publicly exposed at the scene of the crime.

Nov. 17th.—(1) A Decree. Ho King, the Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chehkiang, reports that certain savages in Formosa have tendered their submission, after sustaining a defeat at the hands of the Imperial troops commanded by Sun-K'ai-hwa (孫開華), Brigadier-General on the Chang-chow Station (漳州鎮) in Fuhkien. In recognition of Sun K'ai-hwa's energy and valour, We bestow on him a white jade handled knife; a white jade ring; a pair of embroidered cases; and a steel and flint.

(2) A Decree.—Kin Kuo-shên (金國琛) is appointed Judicial Commissioner of Kwangtung, in the place of Ch'êng Fu (成孚), who is named Lieut. Governor of Honan.

(3) A Decree.—Tê Sin (德馨) to be Judicial Commissioner in Honan, and Sü Ying-yung (許應鏞) to be Judicial Commissioner in Kiangsu.

(3) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, together with the Governors of Honan and Shansi, request that the Prefect of Ching-chow, in Hupeh, Ni Wen-wei (倪文蔚) may be placed on the list for immediate promotion as Taotai, and that his brother, an expectant sub-Prefect on probation in Kiangsu, may be placed on the list for immediate promotion as sub-Prefect, in consideration of a contribution to the famine relief fund for the three above named provinces of the sum of Tls. 6,220 forwarded by Ni Wên-wei.

(4) Li Hung-chang requests that some monument may be erected to the memory of a girl whose filial piety was the admiration of her native district. When her mother, who was a great invalid, was still alive, she spent her whole day in nursing her, and frequently passed nights without sleep. Being the only child she refused to marry, but decided to remain at home to wait on her parents. When her mother lost all her teeth from age, the daughter masticated the food and so kept her alive. The father gained a living by teaching, and when he died they were left penniless. The daughter begged some money from his former pupils for the support of her mother and the funeral expenses. The neighbours who came to condole, were moved to tears by such devotion. On the death of the mother, the girl performed the necessary rites and displayed her grief as fully as a son would have done. She made the mound over the grave, and composed the epitaph herself, and every eye that read it was suffused with tears. In May last the girl died, and for the encouragement of such filial piety a monument in her honour is applied for. Granted.

(5) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Shansi and Kansuh, applies for the degradation of a military officer named Hwo Te-ch'ang, for failure to put in force the interdict against poppy cultivation. He had been sent to certain districts to see the plant pulled up, but it was subsequently discovered that he had been bribed into sparing as much as 2,500 *mow* of poppy land. He is ordered to be degraded and put upon his trial.

Nov. 18th.—(1) A Decree. Hia Nieh-hing (夏獻馨), is appointed Grain Commissioner for Kwangtung.

(2) A Decree. During the absence of Sha-k'o-tu-lin-cha-pu, Ch'ang Shun (長順), is to act as Commandant of the forces at Barkul.

(3) A Decree. Kwang Show-huo and Shou Tz'ŭ are sent to report upon the condition of the banks of the Grand Canal where the water has left the proper channel.

(4) The Governor-General of Chihli explains that it is quite impossible for the provincial Treasury to supply the money for the erection of guardhouses and barracks at the tombs of the late Emperors Hien-feng and T'ung-chih, and of the two Empresses Dowager now living. The sum required is 355,500 taels, and the Board of Revenue proposed that the Chihli treasury should provide the amount, on the ground that the accommodation required is for the use of Chinese troops, and as such should be paid for out of the treasury of the province; but, as Li Hung chang points out, the outlay is properly connected with the Imperial Mausolea, and should therefore be met by the Board of Revenue. Of course

in a matter of such importance, this distinction would not be allowed to weigh if the money existed, but the Provincial Treasury is more than empty. Years of bad harvests, and the famine this year, have made it impossible to collect the whole of the taxes, and with an empoverished treasury, the provincial government has had to incur immense expense in relieving the famine-stricken population. At the best of times, the yearly surplus of the province does not exceed 30,000 or 40,000 taels, but this year the receipts from the land tax are not expected to amount to more than 600,000 taels, whereas over 1,000,000 taels is required for the salaries of the officials on the provincial establishment; and where this is to come from it is still difficult to say. With a large deficit it is utterly impossible to supply the money, and it is requested that the Board of Works' original proposal that the Board of Revenue should provide the amount be adhered to. Rescript. "Let the Board of Revenue consider and report."

(5) The Governor of Shensi states that he will wait until next spring before submitting the names of the officials who have been energetic or lax, as the case may be, in discouraging the cultivation of the poppy. The drought last year made it impossible for people to sow the poppy seed, and, this year, the painful proof they have experienced that wholesome grain is better than the poisonous drug, made it a comparatively easy matter to dissuade them from resuming the cultivation, or persuade them to destroy what was already in the ground. Early in the year, instructions were sent to all the authorities throughout the province to visit their respective districts, and in the reports received from them it is stated that some of the cultivators had spontaneously ploughed over their poppyfields and put in other crops. In some instances, when the officials were proceeding to pull up the plants, the women attempted to stop them, and it was not until they had been reasoned with, that they desisted. Another plan adopted was to pay so much a load for all the young shoots brought in. The farmers finding that others would come and pull up their plants, thought it better to pull them up themselves, and claim the amount offered for each load. It had originally been intended to recommend for favourable consideration such officials as had honestly done their duty in this respect, and to denounce those who acted otherwise; but as much of the success in keeping down poppy cultivation this year may be ascribed to the drought, it is deemed better to wait until next year, when it will seen how the officials succeed when a propitious season has put all the old temptations in the way of the people. Noted.

(6) The Governor of Shensi requests that certain officials unconnected with his province may be rewarded for their readiness to assist him in procuring rice, and facilitating its conveyance to the famine districts in Shensi. When the Governor found it necessary to import grain, he wrote privately to Chu Ch'ang-lin, an expectant Taotai, then living at his own home in Hunan, and also to Wang Chia-min, the Commissariat officer in Kansuh, and Feng Nan-pin, Brigadier General at Ning-hsia, requesting them to purchase rice privately on his account. This they did at very moderate rates, so that when his agents arrived to take charge of the supplies everything was ready. In this way 200,000 *tan* of rice were supplied to the province of Shensi. Another officer who did much to expedite the transport of the grain was Chou Yu-ch'uan, the Naval Comander stationed at Ho-k'ow, in Hupeh. In winter, when the river was frozen, he and his men broke the ice to make a passage for the boats; and in spring they equally exerted themselves in dredging the shallow parts of the river. In the work of superintending relief operations, an expectant Prefect named Hsü Wei-p'ei distinguished himself by the zealous manner in which he went from place to place, regardless of hardships and discomfort. All the officials above named being officially unconnected with Shensi, their readiness to give their assistance is the more praiseworthy, and a special mark of His Majesty's approbation is requested for each.

November 19th.—The greater portion of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by a memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szech'wan, describing with great minuteness the discovery of a plot to create an insurrection by one Wu Ts'ai-p'iao, having under him some twenty or more agents who were going about to different places inciting the people to join them in a rebellion. The machinations of these people having been brought to the notice of the Governor by Chow Wan-shun, Commander-in-chief, orders were at once given for the arrest of Wu Ts'ai-p'iao and his agents, and the authorities on the Yünnan frontier were specially cautioned to be on the watch, as it was in that region that the agents had been at work. An intimation reached the Commander-in-chief soon after this that Wu Ts'ai-piao was going to attack a place called

Si-t'an, and then make a raid on Ma-An-Ch'êng some 20 *li* distant. He set out at once therefore for Si-t'an, but the rebels got wind of his approach and made off, so that the expedition resulted only in the capture of two of their boats with a certain amount of arms and gunpowder. A vigilant watch was still kept on all sides, with the result that several arrests were made, but the leader of the insurrection still remained at large and could not be found. At length, about the middle of August, news reached the Commander-in-chief that he had made his way with a number of followers to a place called Ts'ing Ki, where troops were immediately despatched and the house of the rebel chief was surrounded at dead of night. The Commander-in-chief broke open the door and rushed in, followed by some ten or more men. Wu Ts'ai-p'iao, startled by the noise of their entry, jumped up and seized a sword, but he was cut down by the Commander-in-chief and immediately seized and secured. His followers all escaped, and the night being dark it was thought inadvisable to follow them for any distance. In the boxes of the chief, seditious proclamations and other documents of a most treasonable nature were discovered. Subsequent operations against the remainder of the band led to the destruction or capture of nearly all of them, and orders have now been given for the summary execution of Wu T'sai-p'iao and the other prisoners of importance. The memorial concludes with a recommendation of the officers whose services on this occasion are deserving of notice.

Nov. 20th.—(1) A decree appointing K'i Siu 啟秀, to the post of sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, with Brevet rank as vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies.

(2) Memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szech'wan. On the 8th September he had the honor to receive the following reply to a postscript memorial he had presented on the subject of the successful nature of the arrangements for the sale of salt on the borders of Kwei-chow :—"It is noted. In the postscript memorial certain words are repeated twice over, and there are places in which the pages are not consecutive. Let the Governor-General in question give an intelligible explanation as to the cause of the mistake." As memorialist, kneeling upon his knees, perused this reply, he was seized with an indescribable fear and trembling, and in obedience to the command laid upon him inspected the memorial, in which he found that the place where the document was not consecutive was owing to the existence of a page that had been repeated. When the memorial was drawn up, he had found when reading it carefully over that there was a mistake in a character in one of the pages of the middle fold or form of the memorial, which necessitated that part being re-written, and as the mistake occurred just at the end of one of the folds a fresh fold had to be begun. Thus, a new form was used for the last part of the memorial, and it was intended when this had been copied fair to cut off the page on the first half of the memorial on which the mistake occurred and attach the new piece. Unfortunately, the clerk omitted to do this and pasted the new piece on to the old. A little of the paste too that was used got on to the two leaves and fastened them together, so that when memorialist was comparing the copy with the original he did not, in his hurry, detach them and make the necessary alteration, which was a piece of most unpardonable carelessness. Having now received an Imperial decree pointing out this mistake and calling for an explanation, memorialist whose eyes are blurred, feels in his fear as if there were no place which will hold him (to which he can fly for refuge). In matters of such grave importance as representations to His Majesty, what redoubled caution and care ought there not to be? And an error such as this is worse than ordinary carelessness. All then that memorialist can do is reverently to beseech His Majesty of His goodness to commit His servant to the Board for the infliction of a rigorous penalty, that he may learn to avoid carelessness in the future. (For decree see *Gazette* of 4th November.)

November 21st.—(1) Edict. Li P'ei-ching, Governor of Kwei-chow, is granted leave according to his request to repair to the capital. Li Chao-yuen will act during his absence.

(2) Edict on changes in the military staff of the province of Honan.

(3) Memorial. Li Ping-chang, Governor of Kiangsi, memorializes, having been allowed to retire to take care of his parents. He has handed over charge to Li Wen-ming, till now provincial treasurer, and has left for his home, where his mother is anxiously waiting for him.—Rescript : Noted.

(4) Postscript memorial. The same memorializes that the vacancy caused by the promotion of the treasurer be filled by the acting appointment of Shen Pao-ching

Taotai of the circuits of Kwang-hsien, Jao-chow, Kiukiang and Nan-kang, and reports minor changes in the official staff of Kiangsi. —Rescript : Noted.

(5) Memorial by Li Wen-ming, newly promoted Governor of Kiangsi, who reports having taken over the seal, and requests leave to get an audience at Peking.—Rescript : It is not necessary.

(6-7) Memorials by Shen Pao-ching, acting treasurer, and by Miao Tê-fên, acting judge, of Kiangsi, reporting having taken over charge.—Rescript : Noted.

(8) Memorial. Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Hukwang, and Pan Wei, Governor of Hupeh, report that again the grain tribute for the current year cannot be sent. They accordingly request that the amount be commuted into silver, and state that the grain purchased will be duly forwarded. The commutation of last year's grain tribute will be sent by instalments.—Rescript : Let the Board of Revenue take note.

(9) Memorial. Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Szechuen, reports two vacancies, of Mien-chow Hsien and Jen-show Hsien, to be filled.—Rescript : Let the Board of Civil Office report.

Nov. 22nd.—(1) Edict. Li Hung-chang has memorialized on the overflow of the Yung-ting river, and has asked for promotion and rewards for those officials who exerted themselves on this occasion. The edict enumerates in consequence the promotion of some and the granting of buttons and peacock feathers to others.

(2-3-4) Edicts regarding changes amongst the Lieutenant-Generals of the Mongolian blue bordered banner and of the Manchu blue bordered and plain yellow banner.

(5) Edict. Censor Liang Ching has memorialized having been informed that certain Magistrates (hsien) of the provinces of Shansi and Honan during the present famine, under the pretence of charitableness, have proposed to establish public granaries, have received part of the revenue of next year in advance, and have introduced other malpractices in connection with the collection of the grain tax, with the requisition of carriages and horses for governmental purposes and with official expenditure and fees in civil suits. The Censor having asked for an investigation of these charges, the Governors of both provinces are ordered to thoroughly investigate.

(6) Edict. The same Censor having reported defrauds of the revenue by certain Magistrates of Shantung, the proper Board shall consider and report.

(7) Edict. The same Censor has asked that proper rules be issued with regard to malpractices obtaining in provincial treasuries in connection with the discharge and the transfer of officials ; the proper Board shall therefore consider and report.

(8) Memorial. The Literary Chancellor of Moukden, Wang Chia-pi, reports on the examinations held by him in the provinces of Kirin and Tsitsihar, and asks for certain changes.—Rescript : Granted, let the Board of Rites take note.

(9) Memorial. Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Szechuen, reports on vacancies of Taotai posts in his province and proposals for appointments.—Rescript : Let the Board of Civil Office consider and report.

(10) In a postscript memorial the same reports that the promotion of Chao Chin-yuen, a Taotai, to be provincial judge of Hupeh, has created a vacancy ; and proposes that Ting Shih-pin be appointed to this Taotaiship.—Rescript : Noted.

(11) Memorial. The acting-admiral on the Yangtze, Li Chêng-mow, reports on his return to Tai-ping Fu after a tour of inspection.—Rescript : Noted.

(12) A postscript memorial by Chin Shun reporting that the winter being very cold and the soldiers outside of the Great Wall suffering in consequence, it will be necessary to supply the men as usual with fur clothes.—Rescript : Let the Board of Revenue consider and report.

Nov. 23rd.—(1) Memorial. Liu Kün-i, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, memorializes on necessary changes in the military staff of Kwangsi.—Rescript : Let the Board of War consider and report.

(2) In a postscript Memorial the same reports on the vacancy of a Majorship of the left wing in Canton.—Rescript : Let the Board of War consider and report.

(3) A postscript Memorial of Wang Chia-pi, Literary Chancellor of Moukden, on the defrayment of the examination expenses in Kirin.—Rescript : Let the proper Board take note.

(4) A postscript Memorial of Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Szechwan. According to a rule proposed by the Board of Civil Office and sanctioned by the Emperor, all expectant officials from the Taotai downwards should be tried as to their ability for one year at the provincial capital ; several officers are named who complied with this rule and who were found efficient. Their appointment is therefore solicited.—Rescript : Let the Board of Civil Office take noted.

(5) Memorial. Kiyuen, Ching-kai and Enfu, memorialize on cultivated and uncultivated land in Manchuria, occupied by bannermen. They propose that, to avoid litigation, people who have cultivated new land for two successive years shall report to the authorities, and after due investigation as to the truth of their statements receive this land as their property. In the 24th year of Tao-kwang (1845) this was made the rule, but many suits arose from people reporting the land of others as if it had been cultivated by them. In order that nobody by non-reporting avoid paying the land tax, the neighbours of a person who has cultivated new land for two years and who does not report, shall have the right of reporting himself and of claiming the land in question.—Rescript: Noted.

Nov. 24th.—(1) Memorial. The Censors Ch'ing Shou and T'ang Shu-nan memorialize on the insufficient quantity of rice for the soup kitchens and boarding houses established for the poor, and pray that His Majesty supply this want.—Rescript already published.

(2) Memorial. Yung-lu and others pray for a rescript in an appeal case. So Tsŭ-ch'ing, from Kwang-yuen Hsien, Szechwan, has accused so Tsŭ-kwei and others for having beaten his mother to death. According to his evidence he possessed a house which he intended to pull down and rebuild. Some of his relatives objected to this on the pretence that they also had a right to the house, and in the row ensuing his mother was beaten and died in consequence. Only so Tsŭ-kwei has been brought to justice; the others escaped by bribing the officials. He appealed to the Governor-General without result, and then repaired to the capital in order to appeal to the Emperor's decision.—Rescript already published.

(3) Memorial. Shen Pao-cheng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, and Wu Yuen-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, report a vacancy in the district of Tsung-ming and ask for an appointment, which is specially important as the people of the said district are very unruly.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office consider and report.

(4) Another memorial by the same on the vacancy of the Tao-shan Hsien (near Shanghai), the last incumbent, Liang Pu-kwei, having been transferred to the provincial capital. They propose Wang Shu-fen, at present Magistrate of Sin-tza (Chen Tsê-hsien,) for this post.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office consider and report.

(5) In a postscript memorial Shen Pao-cheng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, proposes changes amongst the military officials of Kiangsu.—Rescript: Granted, let the Board of War take note.

(6) The same asks in a postscript memorial, at the request of the Commander-in-chief, for the punishment of Captain Hu I-lin, who was removed from his post on account of remissness in the discharge of his duties. Thinking that his dismissal was due to the secret report of Liutenant-Colonel Ho Tin-lin, Hu I-lin became his enemy, and, insulting him, threatened his life. He was brought before the provincial judge, but would not confess. The Governor-General having then investigated the case could not but confirm the decision of the lower court, and therefore prays that Hu I-lin be dismissed from office. Rescript: Let Hu I-lin be dismissed and be brought to justice, and let the proper Board take note.

(7) A postscript memorial. Liu Kŭn-i, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, reports that in consequence of the quelling of the rebellion in eastern Kwang-tung, he has discharged the braves for whom there has no further use. Rescript: Noted.

November 25th.—Court Circular. The Board of Rites prays that a minister be sent with a votive tablet to the mausoleum of Tung-chih (惠陵). K'wei-jun (奎潤) Is ordered to be sent.

(1) Edict regarding the appointment of a Taot'ai in Kansuh.

(2) Edict. Hwang-cho having this day returned thanks for Imperial favour, and having reported the route taken by him, has in the last line of his postscript memorial not raised the character 奏 (*tsou* to memorialize) above the others, which is against the rule. Let, therefore, the Board investigate and report.

(3) Edict. 800 piculs of rice are granted as a gift to the poor of T'ung-chou (通州).

(4) Memorial of Shen Pao-cheng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, proposing the repair of the east dike of the Grand Canal in the district of Yang-chou Fu, and of the more important parts of the west dike, as soon as more funds are in hand; and so to proceed year by year with these repairs for the protection of agriculture.—Rescript: Noted, the Taot'ai Pang Chi-yün and others shall examine; the east dike is to be at once repaired as a general protection.

(5) Memorial. The same recommends the appointment of Ch'eng T'ien-ch'i to a vacant Majorship (yo-chi).—Rescript: Let the Board of War consider and report.

(6) Memorial. Wen Ke, Governor of Shantung, reports an inundation at Kai-chou; the waters having receded in the eastern part of this district, assistance has been rendered to the people.—Rescript already published.

(7) Memorial. Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Szechwan, stripped of his rank but retained in office, reports the vacancy of the independent department of Tzŭ-chou, and recommends a new appointment.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office consider and report.

November 26th.—Memorial. Shen Pao-cheng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, reports that Wen Pao-shen (温葆深), now 77 years old, a Junior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, passed his *Chü-jen* examination in the 1st year of Tao-Kwang (1821). As since that time more than a cycle (of 60 years) has passed, a *lu-ming* (鹿鳴) feast has according to the regulations, a second time to be prepared for him and the *chü jen* of this year's examination.—Rescript already published.

Note.—"*Chü-jen* graduates are entitled by regulation to an official entertainment at which an ode of the Book of Poetry, entitled the Luh Ming should be chanted. The banquet is accordingly known by this name. As a special mark of respect for old age, it is further ordained that a *Chü-jen* graduate who shall reach the sixtieth anniversary of his examination, thus completing an entire cycle—shall repair a second time to the Luh Ming banquet." Mayers, the Chinese Government, p. 72.

(2) Memorial. The same reports on the pensions granted to children of military officers who died in battle. Of these there are in the province of Anhwei 176. The regulations compiled for Kiangsü should be applied for Anhwei also.—Rescript: Let the proper board take note.

(3) Memorial. Chinshun, military Governor of Ili, reports that Mutungga, Commandant of the Vanguard (Hung-ling), having extorted money by false pretences from Chenghsi, a commandant (Ying-tsung), the latter was at last superseded took poison and died. The case has already been investigated, and the dismissal of Mutungga is requested.—Rescript: Let the Board of War consider and report.

(4) A postscript Memorial. Shen Pao-cheng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, memorializes having received the report of the acting Magistrate of Kiang-ning Hsien (Nanking) on a gambling case in which several minor officials and a Brigade-General are concerned; he has already stripped all with the exception of the latter of their respective ranks, and requests that the Brigade-General be for ever dismissed from office.—Rescript already published.

(5) The same asks in a postscript Memorial that the Brigade-General (Tsung-ping) Chang Ching-lung be allowed to retain his post in Anhwei instead of taking up his appointment in Yünnan.—Rescript already published.

(6) The same recommends in a postscript momorial several officials for promotion who have been on probation in the provincial capital for one year.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office take note.

November 27th.—(1) Edict. Wen Ke, Governor of Shantung, reports the repairs of the dikes of the Yellow River having been completed. He prays that by Imperial favour incense be sent to be offered to the gods, and that the officials who exerted themselves be rewarded.—Rescript already published.

(2) A postscript Memorial. Yü Lü memorializes on the return of a Taotai to his post in Anhwei.—Rescript: Noted.

(3) Memorial. Mei Ch'i-chao, Governor of Chehkiang, reports, as ordered, on the repeated disturbances created and thefts committed by the soldiery. In the rescript he is ordered to search for the malefactors that have escaped. The soldiery should be kept in order, that further disturbances of the kind become impossible.

(4) A postscript Memorial. Shen Pao-chêng requests that Hsü Pen-k'wan, a second captain (shou-pei) be cashiered for selling a wrecked ship and appropriating the amount for his own use. Rescript: Let Hsü Pen-k'wan be cashiered and brought to court for rigid investigation. Let the proper Board take note.

November 28th.—(1) Edict. Kuo Lei-min, Tartar General at Hang-chow, having reported that Fursen (富爾蓀) without having received an Imperial Edict, had assumed the acting Brigade-Generalship of Chapu, Fursen is to be handed over to the Board, which shall decide his sentence.

(2) Rescript. Ching Lin is appointed to the post of sub-Reader, Pao-ting to that of sub-Expositor, of the Han-lin.

(3) Rescript. The Court of Sacrificial Worship having proposed the 23rd December as the great offering of the winter solstice to Heaven at the Huan-ch'in (丘圜), let Tsai Tun represent Us and let En Ching, Chao Yu, Tuan Hsing and Li Jui offer in worship at the four shrines.

(4) A postscript Memorial. Lui Kŭn-i, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, requests, in conformity with an edict of the Emperor Hien Feng, that four military officers, who received wounds in battle so as to be unable to drill, be excused from practical drill (免騎射.) Let it be as requested, and let the Board of War take note.

(5) Memorial. Wen Ke, Governor of Shantung, reports on a tour of military inspection.—Rescript: Noted.

(6) Memorial. Wen Pin (文彬,) Director-General of the Grain Transport, prays that a distinction be granted to the God of Winds, who protected the dikes of the Grand Canal.—Rescript: Let the Board of Rites consider and report.

(7) The same asks in a memorial for ten sticks of Tibetan incense for the gods. —Rescript already published.

(8) A postscript Memorial. Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the two Kiang, requests the re-appointment of a Colonel, whose time of mourning has expired.—Rescript: Granted, let the Board of War take note.

(9-10) Memorial. Shih Lu, Manchu Brigade-General of Cha-pu, reports having taken charge of his post. Fursen, Manchu Brigade-General of Hanchow, reports the same.—Rescript: Noted.

(11) Memorial. Mutengga and Fu Shen hand in their report on a riot among the bannermen, and ask that the officers concerned be cashiered.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(12) In a postscript memorial the same request that the button be taken from a bannerman, who had a row with a Chinese. —Rescript: Granted.

November 29th.—(1) Memorial. Tsai Lin, Grand Secretary in charge of the Board of Works, an Imperial Clansman, states that the Governor of Shantung is over 50,000 taels in arrear, and, though pressed, has not for years paid the amounts due to the Board. He prays for a rescript urging him to pay, if not the whole amount, at least some 20,000 or 30,000 taels, as large amounts are required by the Board for the Mausolea of the late Emperor Tung Chih and the late Empress.—Rescript already published.

(2) Memorial. Shen Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the two Kiang, proposes that the appointments to steamers be left with the Commander-in-chief of the Kiangsŭ naval force.—Rescript: Granted, let the Board of War take note.

(3) Postscript Memorial. Chin Shun, Tartar-General of Ili, proposes, after deliberation with Hsi Sun, Military Assistant Governor, to detach Wu-lu-mu-chi with his forces to Tarbagatai, which is a most important post; his garrison is to be Ta-chéng. Rescript: Noted.

(4) Memorial. Yen Ching-ming, senior Vice-President of the Board of Works, Special Commissioner for Shansi, and Tseng Kuo-chüen, Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent, Governor of Shansi, jointly memorialize in reply to an edict issued at the request of the Censor Li Fan. In this it was said that at Ping-yang Fu the people died in great numbers, although there was rice sufficient to aid them, which, however, was refused to them. The memorialists have carefully examined all the facts and obtained the following information:—The district of Tai-ping Hsien counts 188 villages, that of Chü-wu Hsien 218. The Magistrate reported the failure of the autumn crops last year. Two officials then were deputed to investigate, and reported that in the first-named district 70%, in the last named 60%, were sufferers. Much was done in their aid. Rice was distributed and the rich were asked to give part of their wealth to them. The gentry established offices for the collection of subscriptions. By these means 56,910 taels were collected in Tai-ping Hsien, 52,260 taels in Chü-wu Hsien. There were 41,345 persons in the first, and 32,555 persons, all counted, in the latter district. First grain, then money, was given to them, so that each received a fixed allowance. Each month a list of these was exhibited in each village, and a monthly report handed in. It is not true that rice bought with the subscribed funds was kept back and not distributed in a place called Lo-t'sun-chen. The two officials in charge of the distribution superintended a district of about 200 *li*, and there is no such place there. Memorialists feel sure that no malpractice happened in the two districts named by the Censor.—Rescript: Noted.

(5) Postscript Memorial. Tseng Kuo-ch'üen, Governor of Shansi, reports the Provincial Judge Hsieh Yün-sheng having assumed charge of his post.—Rescript: Noted.

(6) Postscript Memorial. Liu K'un-i, Governor-General of the two Kwang, reports the vacancy of the post of a Lieutenant-Colonel, and proposes a new appointment.—Rescript: Let the Board of War consider and report.

(7) Postscript Memorial. Yü Lu, Governor of Anhwei, reports on the establishment of

an inland Customs station in the district of Wu-hu at Ma-k'ou, which was formerly at Ni-ch'a-k'ou.—Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.

November 30th.—(1) Decree. P'eng Yü-lin having memorialized on necessary repairs to dikes at Fan-kou, in Hupeh, Li Han-chang was directed to act according to the request of the memorialist. Li Han-chang having now reported the completion of the repairs and the establishment of a stone canal lock, he will after some time report again on the benefit of the latter.

(2) Rescript. Shou Ch'ang (壽昌) is to receive the vacant post of Director of the Court of State Ceremonial.

(3) Memorial. T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, requests that a change be effected in the regulations regarding acting appointments, which is granted by rescript, the Board of Civil Office to take note.

(4) Memorial. The Imperial clansman Yen Hsü prays that a temple be erected to the God of Water (龍神) for the people's welfare, the god having sent rain as requested and so relieved the famine-stricken districts of the Empire.—Rescript already recorded.

(5) Memorial. T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, requests the Imperial sanction for having executed seven robbers, who during the present famine kidnapped, ravished, and sold women and girls. The Governor claims his right for having done so before memorializing, by referring to a by-law made at the request of the Governor-General of Chihli in 1870.—Rescript already recorded.

(6) Memorial. The same, together with the Director-General of the Yellow River, Li Ho-nien, solicit an Imperial votive tablet for the River God, who has protected the fleet carrying the tribute rice.—Rescript already recorded.

(7) Postscript memorial. T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, reports the arrival of a Taotai at his post.—Rescript: Noted.

(8) Memorial. Yü Shih petitions to be allowed to retire on account of his eyesight failing and preventing him performing his duty.—Rescript already recorded.

(9) Postscript memorial. Pao Ying reports having left Robdo and having performed, by Imperial command, the sacrificial rites on account of the death of the Prince (beile) Badsarjana of the Turbet army. The son of the deceased and all the officers have expressed their deep gratitude for the affectionate regard of His Majesty.—Rescript: Noted.

December 1st.—(1) Rescript regarding the appointment of a Deputy Lieutenant-General (Fu tu-ting).

(2) Rescript. A District Police Master and Jail Warden of Kiangsi is cashiered for gross misconduct. The Governor is ordered to investigate the case, as also that of the acting District Magistrate of Lo-p'ing Hsien, who pretends to have been absent on official business during that time. The proper Board shall take note.

(3) Memorial. The Imperial clansman, Yen Hsü, impeaches a District Police Master and Jail Warden for remissness and allowing prisoners to escape, and requests his dismissal and trial, as also that a District Magistrate be handed over to the Board.—Rescript already recorded.

(4) Memorial. The newly appointed Provincial Judge of Shansi reports his arrival at his post and tenders his thanks for the Imperial favour.—Rescript: Noted.

(5) Memorial. Kwei Ch'ing and Pi Tao-yuen report that the northern new granary was consumed by fire, and request that the Director be handed over to the proper Board and together with the minor officials be ordered to make good the loss.—Rescript already recorded.

(6) Memorial. The Censor, Chang Ching, reports on the destruction of buildings of the northern new granary by fire and the consequent demolition of adjacent buildings. The granary contained the rice for the four western banners. A few days after his arrival he was informed of fire having broken out in an empty, dilapidated building, and another empty building was likewise destroyed before the progress of the fire was checked. No building containing rice was burnt. He has been informed that probably some of the rice carriers dropped fire from their pipes into the straw and that in this way the fire commenced. He asks that the Director be handed over to the Board for investigation and report, and that the employés be handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial.—Rescript already recorded.

(8) Memorial. The Governor of Honan, T'u Tsung-ying, now reports, as ordered by a Rescript, on the overflow of the river Ch'in (沁) an affluent of the Yellow River. Two Taotais having examined the places of of distress, the Governor states that more than 160 villages suffered by the breakage of the dikes, that they received money and grain in aid, and that the cost of the necessary repairs of the three dike breaches will amount to about Tls. 99,600.—Rescript: Noted.

(9) Memorial. Chêng Lin and others having been informed by the Deputy Major of police of the bordered yellow banner of a fire in the northern new granary, and of the employés having been handed over to the yamên for trial, reports this, leaving the report of the other circumstances of the fire to the yamên.—Rescript already recorded.

December 2nd.—(1) Decree. At the request of Li Hung-chang, a votive tablet is granted for a temple of the god of water at Ch'ang-p'ing-chou, who sent rain at the prayer of the officials of the people of the said district. The Imperial College of Inscriptions (南書房 Nan-shu-fang), shall therefore prepare such tablet, which is to be forwarded to Li Hung-chang

(2 and 3) Rescript. Two Censors are appointed as Superintendents of police for the central and the western division of Peking.

(4) Decree. Li Hung-chang has reported that an elder made false statements in order to appropriate part of the relief fund, and that the employés of a District Magistrate had extorted money. During the time that the elder of Chiao-ho Hsien (交河縣), was in charge of the relief work, the District Magistrate ought to have sent officials to verify his statements. The man has died in the meantime, but Li Hung-chang shall order his family to refund the fourteen piculs of grain thus wrongly appropriated. The District Magistrate, Hsü Ch'eng (徐城), is cashiered. The District Magistrate of Yuench'eng Hsien, Sun-k'un, whose employés extorted money from the people, is also cashiered for ever.—Let the proper Board take note.

(5) Decree. Li Hung-chang has memorialised on the good services rendered by certain benevolent societies in the Empire in raising funds for the famine-stricken districts to the amount of over 500,000 taels and has prayed for the bestowal of votive tablets. The benevolent society Kuo-yu Shan-tang (果育善堂), of Shanghai, the Tung-hua (東華) of Canton, the Yen-chi (仁濟) of Hu-chou in Chehkiang, and the Silk Guild of Shanghai are each granted an Imperial votive tablet, prepared by the Imperial College of Inscriptions.

(6) Memorial. Li Hung-chang, Governor General of Chihli, conjointly with the Relief-commissioner, Kwei Ching-ming, and the Governor of Shansi, Tseng Kwo-ch'üen, recommend the officials who exerted themselves in the relief work in Shansi.—Rescript already recorded.

(7) Memorial. Li Hung-chang reports that the southern dike of the Yellow River has during the last two years been kept in good order, and recommends the officials who exerted themselves in the work. Rescript, let the proper Board consider and report.

(8) Postscript memorial. The same having been directed to report on the particulars of an overflow of the northern dike of the Yellow River, near K'ai-chow, and to order the necessary repairs, states that a dike built during the Sung and Yuen dynasties runs from K'ai-chow to Chang-ch'in in Shantung. In continuation of this old and firm dike a new one was built, which gave way. The breach has now been repaired and the damaged villages have been assisted with money and grain. —Rescript: noted.

(9) Postscript memorial. Ho Ching, Governor-General of Fukien and Chehkiang, reports that Tls. 1,500 per month were formerly granted for the expenses of the Governor of Fukien, who had gone to Formosa. The savages having shown signs of rebellious character, the acting Governor, Wu Tsuan-cheng, will have to subdue them, and, as in the former case, a grant of Tls. 1,500 per month is requested for his expenses.—Rescript: granted, let the Board of Revenue take note.

(10) Postscript memorial. Tu Tsung-ying memorializes that Wei Ying-kuang, Provincial Treasurer of Chehkiang, now appointed Governor of Hunan, has reported the death of his mother and his consequent inability to proceed to his post.—Rescript: noted.

(11) Postscript memorial. Yü-lu, Governor of Anhwei, reports that the acting Treasurer and Judge of Anhwei, Wang Ssü-chi (王思沂), has been appointed Provincial Judge of Shensi. The newly appointed Judge of Anhwei having, however, not yet returned from his audience at Peking, Wang Ssü-chi has to wait for his arrival before proceeding to his post in Shensi.—Rescript: noted.

December 3rd.—(1) Decree.—Yen Hsü having denounced an Assistant Secretary (主事), sent by the Board of Punishments to Jeh-ho, as inefficient, the official is recalled. The Board of Punishments is ordered to depute another Secretary and to report on the efficiency of the former after some time.

(2) Decree. On the recommendation of Ch'i Yuen (岐元) some officers who effectually subdued some Mongolian rebels are rewarded; a first Captain is promoted to the rank of Major; a second Captain is to receive the single-eyed Peacock's Feather; a District Police-master and Jail Warden is to receive the first vacant post of Assistant Sub-Prefect.

(3) Memorial. Tsai Ling, a Grand Secretary in charge of the Board of Works, reports that Hwang Ho-ch'ing, an Assistant in the Council of State and expectant Assistant Secretary of the Board of Works, purchased the rank of District Magistrate in 1873. Neither the Board of Revenue recognised him as such, nor did he retire from the Board of Works, but was entered into the lists of the Board of Civil Office. His conduct not being quite comprehensible, he having apparently some artful design, memorialist requests that he be handed over to the Board, which should consider and report.—Rescript already recorded.

(4) Memorial. Ho Ching, Governor-General of Fuhkien and Cheh-kiang, Wu Tsuan-chêng, acting Governor of Fuhkien, and Sun I-ching, Literary Chancellor for Fuhkien, report on the establishment of public schools in the three districts of Tai-pei Fu, in Fuhkien, and in consequence request that the number of graduates for these districts be decided.—Rescript: Let the proper Board consider and report.

(5) Memorial. Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes having received a report from the District Magistrate of T'ang-shan Hsien, on the murder of a turnkey by two prisoners who afterwards escaped from the prison. Their case has now been tried after their capture, and the one sentenced to be beheaded, the other to be hanged, and both to be marked with the word "murderer" on their left cheek. The second criminal has died before sentence was passed. A turnkey, who allowed the prisoners to make good their escape, is sentenced to ninety blows and to 2½ years' banishment. Other officials are to be handed over to the Board for trial.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments immediately consider and report.

(6) Postscript memorial. T'u Tsung-ying reports the return of an Assistant Secretary of the Board of Revenue, who had been deputed to the relief work in Honan.—Rescript: Noted.

December 4th.—Court Circular. The Prince of Kung returns thanks for an Imperial present of silk.

The Court of Sacrificial Worship (太常寺) prays that princes or dukes be nominated for the winter solstice sacrifices. The Princes of K'e and of Chuang are nominated.

(1) Decree. Kuang An, a Reader of the Grand Secretariat, having complained that of late Assistant Magistrates have taken up civil suits, a practice prohibited by law, Governors-General and Governors shall investigate and prohibit such malpractice.

(2) Decree. Ming An having sent in a postscript memorial with the draft of it enclosed, was ordered to send an explanation. He now states that the original draft had been forwarded by mistake, and prays that for this carelessness he be handed over to the Board, which shall consider and report.

(3) Decree. Kuang Shou (廣壽) and Ho Shou-t'zü (賀壽慈) have proposed to repair the upper part of the northern Grand Canal, that parts of it be deepened and dredged, that at other places the course of the Canal be laid straight by cutting through some of the bends, &c. Let it be as proposed, and let the proper Board take note. A map is attached.

(4) Decree. Kuang An, a Reader of the Grand Secretariat, having requested that an alteration in the rice rations for the bannermen be made, as the latter are in a miserable situation, and that the same be done with regard to the Lamas, the Board of Revenue are to consider and report.

(5) Decree. At the request of the same official, the Censors in charge of the five districts of Peking are to issue general prohibitions against gambling, which is the cause of robberies being committed.

(6) Memorial. The Prince of Kung, Minister of the Council of State, reports the death of one of the (60) Secretaries of the Council of State. To his post is appointed a second-class Secretary of the Board of Ceremonies, whose place is to be occupied by an expectant Senior Secretary of the Mongolian Superintendency (理藩院.)—Rescript: Noted.

(7) Memorial. The Governor of Kwei-chow, Li P'ei-ching, reports the trial and dismissal of the Assistant Sub-Prefect of Ch'ing-chiang (清江) for misconduct in the administration of his district.—Rescripts: Let the proper Board take note.

(8) Postscript memorial. T'u Tsung-ying reports the donations of the Assistant

Reader of the Grand Secretariat Yuen Pao-lin (袁保齡), a son of the former Director-General of the Grain Transport, Yuen Chia-san (甲三), and a brother of the Vice-President Yuen Pao-hun (保恒), towards the relief fund of Honan, amounting to over Tls. 3,000.—Rescript: Let him be raised in accordance with the regulations, and let the proper Board take note.

(9) Postscript memorial. Wu Yuen-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, reports the death of a second Captain Chung Fa (忠發), who left a deficit of Tls. 30,220 8*m*. 7*c*. 3*c*. in his accounts, which his son is required to repay. Memorialist prays that the late Captain be stripped of his rank.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(10) Postscript memorial. Li Hung-chang recommends the following officials for promotion, for their works in connection with the famine relief:—Sub-Prefect Chu T'sai (朱采), District Magistrate, Lao Nai-ksüen (勞乃宣), Elder Wu Chien-hsün (吳建勳), and others.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(11) Postscript memorial. T'u Tsung-ying reports two cases of voluntary subscription to the famine relief, each of Tls. 1,000. In the case of one the mother entreated him to send the money, as his father had wished it on his deathbed. Both subscribers do not ask for reward. Memorialist therefore requests that a tablet with the words 樂善好施 (He delights in good works and has pleasure in aiding others) be granted them.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(12) Postscript memorial. Li Hung-chang recommends several deputies, who accompanied a grain transport, destined for the relief of Shansi, from Fohkien to Tientsin, for promotion.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(13) In another postscript memorial the same requests the bestowal of a native tablet to the River God, who miraculously protected the inhabitants of Chang-chia-k'ou during last summer, when the waters rushed down from the North-western hills.—Rescript already recorded.

December 5th.—Court Circular. The Emperor proceeds at 6.30 a.m. to the Shou-huang-tien, to worship.

(1) Decree with reference to the charges brought by the Censor Ching-Shou, Superintendent of Police for the eastern division of Peking, against two Police Magistrates, who have failed to bring the guilty parties in a stabbing case to justice. They are handed over to the Board for trial.

(2) A Rescript refers back an appeal case to the Governor and the Provincial Judge of Kiangsi for decision.

(3) Memorial. The Censor Sung Lin, Superintendent of Police for the northern division of Peking, conjointly with the acting supervising Censor Li Hung-mo, memorialize requesting that a testimonial be conferred on some of the gentry and of the irregulars for effectually aiding at divers times in the apprehension of robbers.—Rescript already recorded.

(4) Memorial. The same report the remissness of some Police Magistrates in finding thieves.—Rescript already recorded.

(5) In a postscript memorial the same report the capture of a robber, and recommend the officials concerned for reward.—Rescript already recorded.

(6) Memorial. Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, requests the confirmation of a sentence passed on a murderer of two persons. The murderer, visiting the house of his victims, found only their married daughter at home. He tried to outrage her, but her cries attracted the mother and the man fled, after being told that the Magistrate would be appealed to. Being afraid of this, he purchased a large knife, and, meeting the father of the woman he had tried to outrage, he killed him on the spot. Proceeding then to the house, he also killed the wife, and was only, by the arrival of other persons, prevented from also murdering the other woman. He has been sentenced to undergo capital punishment, to have the word "murderer" branded on his left cheek, to have his head, after decapitation, publicly exposed, and half of his property given to the family of the murdered couple.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments consider and report without delay.

(7) Postscript memorial. Li P'ei-ching, Governor of Kwei-chou, reports the case of a man's death in consequence of too severe punishment. A *Chü-jen* having lost his private effects on a journey, found that one of his chair-bearers had stolen them, and that a villager had received the stolen goods. The village elder was in consequence summoned before the District Magistrate and so severely beaten, that he shortly afterwards died. The Governor requests in consequence the discharge of this Magistrate.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

December 6th.—(1) Decree. On the 17th April, 1879, Their Majesties the late

Emperor Tung Chih, and the late Empress will receive the eternal rest. We shall, therefore, together with Their Majesties the two Empresses Dowager, proceed on the 12th April. The prescribed ceremonies and all that is necessary shall be reverently held in readiness by the Yamêns concerned and by the Governor-General of Chihli.

(2) Memorial. The acting Governor of Fukien, Wu Tsuan-chêng, Superintendent of Naval Administration, prays to be relieved of his acting post as Governor on account of sickness, and to be allowed to retain his post as Superintendent.—Rescript already recorded.

(3 & 4) Postscript memorials. Sung Lin and others recommend officials for promotion and reward on account of their having exerted themselves in the capture of robbers.—Rescript already recorded.

(5) Postscript memorial. Wu Yüen-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, reports the transmission of Tls. 80,000, being the amount of *lekin*, including Tls. 10,000 land taxes, collected during the 4th year of Kwang Sü. —Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

(6) Memorial. Li Ho-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, reports the satisfactory state of the banks of the Yellow River, after the recession of the high water. —Rescript already recorded.

(7) Postscript memorial. Wu Yüen-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, forwards Tls. 15,000, the amount of *lekin* taxes for the 3rd quarter, 1878.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

(8) Postscript memorial. Tu Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, reports that the acting Taotai of Chang Wei-huang is still occupied with the construction of an important dike, and that the Taotai appointed is not to proceed to his post until the work is completed.—Rescript: Noted.

(9) Postscript memorial. Li Ho-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, recommends for promotion two Taotais, who during the high water of this year unremittently superintended the difficult work of repairs.—Rescript already recorded.

(10) Postscript memorial. Tuan Fu-ch'ang, a Censor, states the valorous deeds of three officials in Kiangsi, who fought against the rebels and were killed in battle. He prays for a rescript by which the Board be ordered to consider what is the proper reward to be granted.—Rescript already recorded.

December 7th.—(1) Decree. Tu Jui-lien is at his own request handed over to the Board for an investigation on account of some clerical error in his memorial.

(2) Memorial. Kwei Ch'ing and Pi Tao-yüen memorialize on the necessary construction of a levee in the upper part of the Grand Canal, which by restraining the waters of the Canal will benefit the grain transport. They request that a high official be sent to examine and fix the probable cost.—Rescript already recorded.

(3) Memorial. Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, recommends some deputies to be rewarded for their exertions during the sale of grain at Peking.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(4) Postscript memorial. Tseng Kuo-ch'üen, Governor of Shansi, requests the degradation of a military *Kü-jen* for wrongly accusing and for deceitfully alarming others. —Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(5) Memorial. The newly appointed Provincial Judge of Yünnan, Li Tê-wo, reports having taken over charge of his post.—Rescript: Noted.

(6) Postscript memorial. Shao Heng-yü reports that several expectant officials having completed their year of trial at the provincial capital, may be appointed to vacant posts.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office take note.

(7) Memorial. Jui Lien, Manchu General-in-chief, and Tseng Kuo-ch'üen, Governor of Shansi, propose a general subscription to be opened for the purpose of purchasing cattle in Mongolia, in order that the people of Shansi now without any cattle may be able to cultivate the ground.—The Rescript sanctions it and orders the proper Yamên to take note.

(8) Postscript memorial. Li P'ei-ching, Governor of Kwei-chow, reports that a band of forty-one robbers broke into the city of Tu-shan (獨山州), and wounded several people, and that with the exception of four all escaped. He requests that the acting Department Magistrate Su Chung-ting be stripped of rank, but retained at his post; but should he after some time not be able to capture the robbers, he shall be impeached according to the law.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

December 8th.—(1) Decree. On the 17th day of April next the coffins of Their Majesties the late Emperor T'ung Chih and the late Empress should be conveyed to eternal rest. The Board of Astronomy has now reverently proposed that His Majesty should on the 15th April start from the Lung-fu-ssŭ for the Mausoleum of T'ung Chih. We shall together with the two Empresses Dowager start on the 12th

April, arrive at the Lung-fu-ssŭ on the 14th, there respectfully offer libations and perform the rites, and on the 15th proceed to convey the coffins to the Mausoleum; on the 16th, we shall visit the Mausolea of the Consort of T'ai Tung (1627-43), of Shun Chih, of the Empress of Shun Chih, of K'ang Hi, of K'ien Lung, of Hien Feng, and then again worship at the Mausoleum of Tung Chih. On the 17th the coffins will be interred. We shall then return with the tablet to Peking and place it in the Temple. On the 20th, we and the Empresses Dowager return to the Palace. For Our journey to the Mausoleum and back to the capital no other Imperial road need be prepared. The prescribed rites and all other necessaries shall be prepared by the proper Yamên and the Governor-General of Chihli.

(2) Memorial. Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes reporting the overflow of the Yung-ting River and the subsequent repairs. The Prefect who superintended the work, is recommended. —Rescript already recorded.

(3) Postscript memorial. Ping Yü-lin proposes the retirement of a Brigade General on account of old age.—Rescript already recorded.

(4) Memorial. Tso Tsung-tang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansu, requests the dismissal of a District Magistrate, who is unable to fill his post.—Rescript already recorded.

(5) Memorial. Yun Hsü, an Imperial Clansman, recommends for appropriate reward some military officers and some soldiers killed in battle, who succeded in taking alive some robber chiefs.—Rescript: They shall be placed on the list and after examination of their true merits be rewarded; a deceitful assumption of merit is not to be recommended. Let the proper Board consider and report what reward is to be given to the killed soldiers.

(6) In a postscript memorial the same proposes to reward three persons who exerted themselves in capturing robbers, which is granted by rescript.

(7) Postscript memorial. Ho Ching reports on some changes among the acting District Magistrates.—Rescript: Noted.

(8) Postscript memorial. Li Hung-chang reports that the river is nearly closed and foreign affairs are few, and that the poor who had come to Tientsin have at the time of the harvest returned to their homes. Everything is quiet and the crops are promising. On the 10th and the 11th November, three inches of snow fell. For the funeral of the late Emperor and the late Empress in April next he will contrive to be ready. On the 20th November he will return to the provincial capital to arrange everything and so complete all restant affairs.—Rescript: Noted.

Dec. 9th.—(1) Decree. The Censor Li Hung-kwei having in a memorial reported the non-observance of the Government regulations at the triennial examinations, the Literary Chancellors and Governors of provinces are commanded to publish and enforce the old regulations.

(2) Memorial. The Censor Liang Chün sets forth that, although expenses have of late years been cut down and all sorts of devices resorted to, such as the establishment of additional *lekin* stations in the provinces, etc., in order to replenish the Imperial Exchequer, affairs grow worse every year, even to the borrowing of money from foreign merchants to meet extraordinary expenditure. He deplores this state of affairs and deprecates the course pursued to get funds, maintaining that the legally established taxes are sufficient to support the State. To enforce his argument he points to those golden days of the present dynasty when the Imperial and Financial treasuries showed a surplus, and no strange devices (such as levying of *lekin* and selling of buttons) were required to fill the Government coffers, simply because the regular taxes were honestly collected. As a principal reason that the taxes are not properly collected, he cites universal corruption among the officials. The high are receiving presents from their subordinates, and are thus obliged to wink at the dishonesties of those to whom they ought to be an example of rectitude. When it happens that a high officer accuses one of his subordinates of defalcation, the individual accused has usually died without leaving anything to make up the deficit. He prays that the Governors-General and Governors be commanded to imitake *Yen Ching-ming* (閻敬銘), formerly Governor of Shantung, who swept away all corruption during his term of office and replenished the provincial coffers; and further to order the Boards of Civil Office and of Revenue to devise means, that defaulters may be reported and brought to justice during their life time.—Rescript already recorded.

(3) Postscript memorial. The same accuses the Magistrates in the provinces of Shansi and Honan of wanting to establish granaries during the famine under the cover of a charitable desire, and of committing other grievous malpractices which

oppress the people. An Edict has already appeared in the *Gazette* of the 22nd November, ordering the Governors of these provinces to strictly investigate these charges.

(4) Memorial. Yang Chung-ya, Governor of Kwangsi, reports the changes that have taken place among the civil officers in his province.—Rescript: Noted.

(5) Memorial. Shao Heng-yü, Governor of Hunan, reports the death of the Magistrate of Wu-ling-hien, &c.—Rescript: Noted.

(6) The remainder of the *Gazette* is taken up by a memorial from a Tartar General regarding the suicide of a subordinate officer.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments consider and report.

December 10th.—(1) Rescript. Let I Nien take up the post of Under-Chancellor of the Privy Council now vacant and Wu Ta-chéng prepare for an audience on the 17th of this month.

(2) Decree. Wan Ching-li, President of the Board of Civil Office, now being absent on service, let Hsü Tung temporarily fill his place.

(3) Decree. Mei Chi-chao, Governor of Chekiang, having reported that the Taotai Wang Kwang-yeh had arrived at the 60th anniversary of his taking the degree of provincial graduate, it is Our will that he again partake of the provincial graduates' meal (鹿鳴筵宴) at the next triennial examination as is customary, and confer upon him a button of the second class.

(4) Decree. In answer to a memorial from Liu K'un-i, Governor-General of the two Kwang, tablets are to be hung in the temples of Kwang-ti and Tien-how at different places in the province of Kwang-tung in honor of these two gods, for having of late years protected the people against robbers and other calamities.

(5) Memorial. Liu Ch'ang-yu, Governor General of Yünnan and Kwei-chow suggests means of bringing waste lands in Yünnan again under cultivation and of repeopling the province—Rescript: Granted.

(6) Memorial. Kwei Ching and others request a grant of 800 piculs of rice for the soup kitchens of the poor at Tung-chow.—Rescript already recorded.

(7) Postscript memorial. The Censor Liang Chün exposes some of the malpractices of provincial treasurers. Among other things he accuses them of being in the habit, when near vacating their posts, of paying monies not due and pocketing discounts, while monies overdue they keep back. He suggests that Governors of provinces inspect the accounts of treasurers leaving, &c.—Rescript already recorded.

(8) Postscript memorial. Mei Chi-chao, Governor of Chekiang, reports that four civil officials who purchased their rank have, in accordance with regulations, passed their year's probation, and begs that they may be placed on the list of provincial expectants.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office take note.

(9) Memorial of the same, reporting that the stock of salt in the Eastern part of the province of Chekiang has accumulated to such an extent that it is necessary to prohibit the import of this article to this part for a time. Also, to make the article more saleable than hitherto, he prays that the same regulations regarding the salt monopoly be enacted as now exist in the western part of Chekiang and the province of Kiang-su.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue deliberate and report.

Dec. 11th.—(1) Decree. Let Hsia T'ung-shan proceed to take up the post of Literary Chancellor of Kiangsu.

(2) Decree. Let the Han-lin graduate Wu Ta-cheng proceed to Shansi, as expectant Taotai for duty under the Governor Tseng Kwo-ch'üen.

(3) Decree. Expressing grief at the news of the death of Lin Tien-ling, Literary Chancellor of Kiangsu, a Chancellor of the Privy Council and graduate of the Han-lin college. On his son Lin K'ai-fen, the degree of provincial graduate is conferred, with permission to contest for the metropolitan graduate's degree.

(4) Memorial. Pêng Yü-lin reports that he has completed his tour of inspection on the Yang-tze-kiang in five provinces.—Rescript: Noted.

(5) Postscript memorial by the same, recommending the Brigadier Tao Li-chung, a great strategist, as the most fit person to fill the important post of Brigadier at Yo-chow-fu now vacant. Also nominating Colonel Kao Kwang-hsiao as an efficient officer to take Tao Li-chung's present post.—Rescript already recorded.

(6) Memorial. Kwang Lin, Collector of Customs at Hui-an, sends his yearly report and his account, showing a deficit.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider and report.

(7) Postscript memorial. Li P'ei-ching, Governor of Kwei-chow, reports changes that have taken place in the civil service of his province—Rescript: Noted.

(8) Memorial. The General at Uliasut'ai reports his inspection of the Kalkas tribe to the South of that place, in all twenty standards. He found soldiers, horses, arms

and ammunition in splendid condition.—Rescript: Noted.

Dec. 12th.—Court Circular. Hsia T'ung-shan returns thanks for his appointment as Literary Chancellor of Kiangsu, and Wu Ta-chêng does the same for his appointment of expectant Taotai in Shansi.

(1) Decree. Let Ch'ien Pao-lien temporarily fill the post of Secretary of the Board of War, in place of Hsia Tung-shan, promoted Literary Chancellor, and Ying Chao-yung for the present fill the post of under Secretary of the Board of Civil Office in place of the former.

(2) Decree. The Censor Wang Hsing having reported that the local officials are committing many malpractices and extortions, let Yan Ching-ming and Tsêng Kwo-chuen investigate this matter thoroughly. Let the growing of poppy be prohibited and the people induced to grow mulberry trees or cotton, according as it suits the soil. Also let the people again be warned against the old practice of drowning female children, now more rife through the distress.

(3) Memorial. The Literary Chancellor of Chekiang, Huang Cho, returns thanks for his promotion to the rank of a Secretary of the Board of Civil Office.—Rescript already recorded.

(4) Postscript memorial. This somewhat lengthy document is by Yü Lu, Governor of Anhwei, the gist of which is as follows:—The gentry and people of Hsü-i-hsien sent a petition, headed by the name of Wang Ying-yüeh, an expectant Taotai in Chekiang, to the Governor of the province, asking to be allowed to erect shrines in honor of Wu Tang, formerly Governor-General of Sz-chüen; and Tsai Mou-lin, formerly Magistrate of Loh-yang-hsien in Honan; both natives of the above-named district, in the temple for departed worthies there. Acting on this petition, the Governor-General, Shên Pao-chên and Yü Lu, Governor of Anhwei, sent a joint memorial to the Throne praying for permission to carry out the wishes of the petitioners. Suddenly the Taotai Wang Ying-yüeh informed the Governor that he is very much astonished to see his name figure at the head of the petition in question, arguing how impossible it is for him to have been guilty of such unbecoming conduct because both departed officers were related to him by marriage, and moreover in his humble opinion unworthy to receive such posthumous honors. Governor Yü Lu reports this circumstance in the present memorial, but is puzzled how Taotai Wang's name came to be at the head of the petition. Nor does he think Wang's reasons for not thinking these officers worthy of receiving this mark of esteem sufficient and explicit enough; in fact he quotes a second petition received from the gentry and people of Lo-yang-hsien in Honan, wherein Wu Tang's official ability and probity, as well as Tsai Moulin's filial piety, are highly praised, and similar honors asked for them. He promises, however, to get at the bottom of this mystery, so that nothing will be done against ancient custom in such matters, and report again.—Rescript: Noted.

(5) Memorial. Li P'ei-ching, Governor of Kwei-chow, reports that his three years' term of office is up and asks for an Imperial audience.—Rescript already recorded.

(6) Memorial. Wen Ke, Governor of Shantung, reports that he will leave the provincial capital on the 1st day of the 12th moon to inspect the military forces in the western part of his province. During his absence the provincial treasurer will direct the current affairs, while important matters will be sent after him.—Rescript: Noted.

(7) Postscript memorial. Huang Cho, Literary Chancellor of Chekiang, enumerates the different prefectures in which he has conducted examinations. Reports that the *lekin* difficulties in Fung-hua and Ting-hai have been settled. He is writing his memorial from Wên-chow-fu, where he is conducting the examinations, and mentions *en passant* that the harvest in that region has been abundant, but commerce is languishing, very few foreigners (外洋) residing there, and there being little shipping.—Rescript already recorded.

(8) Memorial. Yang Chung-ya, Governor of Kwangsi, reports several officials who have passed their year of probation successfully at the provincial capital.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office take note.

(9) Memorial. Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Hu-kwang, informs the throne that the deficits of several degraded magistrates have been paid up by the delinquents.—Rescript: Noted.

December 13th.—(1) Decree. The Salt Commissioner of Hwei-an Fu in Kiangsi will at once remit Tls. 40,000, now in arrear, for the use of the Yamên of Gendarmerie in Peking. In case he is not able to remit the amount, Shen Pao-chen, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, will remit from the Nanking treasury and get the Salt Commissioner to refund the same.

(2) Decree. On the recommendation of Hsi Lun, buttons and peacock feathers are bestowed on a number of officers and men who distinguished themselves in the 8th

moon of this year in expelling the Mohamedan rebels from the district of Tarbagatai.

(3) Decree deploring the death of Kwei Ling, formerly President of the Board of Revenue, bestowing a pall, with Buddhist prayers on it (陀羅經被,) and Tls. 500 to cover funeral expenses. The Beile Tsai Chêng with ten officers of the Imperial household are commanded to pour the libation before the coffin of the deceased in accordance with the rites. Let his infant son Fu Hsü be a second-class Assistant Secretary (主事) and attached to one of the Boards when of age.

(4) Memorial. Fursen, Manchu Brigade-General of Hangchow, reports by command on the differences which have arisen between him and Kwo Lei-ming, Tartar General at Hangchow; further, he defends himself against certain charges brought against him by the latter.—Rescript already recorded.

(5) Memorial. Wen Ke, Governor of Shantung, reports the escape of Captain Chang Chi-kwei, who was in custody on a charge of having caused the death of two civilians, while in command of a party of soldiers who got into an affray with the people of the districts of Shou-kwang and Wei. He prays that this officer be stripped of all rank, and when captured, be punished as he deserves.—Rescript: Let it be as requested.

(6) Postscript memorial. Yü Lu, Governor of Anhwei, petitions that in accordance with regulations in such cases, permission be granted to erect a memorial arch in honor of the Taotai Su Ch'eng-mei, who contributed Tls. 1,200 towards the Shansi relief fund. He suggests as an inscription on the arch: "Joy in doing good and pleasure in aiding."—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(7) Postscript memorial. The same recommends several officers for having exerted themselves in caring for the poor refugees from the famine districts. — Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(8) Wen Ke, Governor of Shantung, recommends in a postscript memorial several officers who have completed their year of trial at the provincial capital.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office take note.

(9) Postscript memorial. Yü Lu, Governor of Anhwei, asks for permission to erect a memorial arch in honor of Lady Ko, who herself contributed, and also caused her two sons, two high military officers, to give largely towards the Shansi relief fund. He suggests the inscription: "Joy in doing good and pleasure in aiding."—Rescript: Granted.

(10) Postscript memorial. Mei Chi-chao reports minor changes in the civil staff.—Rescript: Noted.

(11) Memorial. Tso Tsung-tang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh, reports the unfitness of the Manchu Brigade-General Chin Kwei for his post, and recommends Chang Shun as the right person to command the Manchu troops at Pa-li-k'un (巴里坤). — Rescript: A special rescript will be issued.

December 14th.—(1) Decree. In answer to a memorial from the Board of Works, the Governor-General of the Two Kiang is ordered to forward at once, for use in the Imperial Mausoleum, some coir matting and gold leaf. This is important, in order that the Mausoleum be fully prepared by the 3rd moon of next year, when it is intended to convey the remains of Their Majesties the late Emperor and Empress to their final resting place.

(2) Decree. The Board of Punishments is ordered to deliberate on the advisability of letting the provincial Judge reinvestigate appeal cases returned to the provinces. This is suggested by the Censor Tuan Fu-ch'ang.

(3) Decree. At the request of Yang Chung-ya, Governor of Kwangsi, Colonel Yang Tzŭ-chi has his rank restored to him for having at last succeeded in capturing a noted chief of a band of robbers.

(4) Memorial. Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Two Hu provinces, memorializes about the building of a stone lock at Fan-k'ou, a matter already referred to in former *Gazettes*.—Rescript already recorded.

(5) Postscript memorial. Tseng Kuo-ch'üen, Governor of Shansi, asks that the rank of Provincial Treasurer by brevet be bestowed on Taotai Yü Shan at Chi-nan Fu in Shantung, and the same rank posthumously on Liu Chüen-chi, late Taotai at Hwuei-chou Fu in Anhwei, for having shown extraordinary zeal in collecting funds in their respective provinces for the famine relief fund.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

December 15th.—(1) Memorial. Li Wen-min, Governor of Kiangsi, prays that the Superintendent of prisons at Lo-ping Hsien be stripped of his rank for letting a number of prisoners escape during the absence of the Magistrate, and that he be further punished after investigation.—Rescript already recorded.

(2) Memorial. Yü Lu, Governor of An-hwei, states that he has stopped giving relief to the refugees from the famine districts who flocked to his province. In all 80,000 persons have received aid for a period of nine months, towards which the officials, gentry and people of An-hwei, contributed about Tls. 100,000. Among the contributors he especially mentions Brigade-General Ch'eng Wen-ping, and prays that for his charitable disposition, he and his ancestors for two generations may have the first rank bestowed upon them. Also that permission may be granted for two memorial arches to be erected in honor of two old ladies who caused their sons, all high military officers, to give handsomely to the relief fund.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(3) Memorial. Tan Chung-lin, Governor of Shansi, reports that the Magistrate of Liu-pa-ting has vacated his post and gone into mourning for one of his parents lately deceased. This being an important post, he has, after much consideration, selected the Magistrate of Wei-nan Hsien as being the fittest person to fill the vacancy.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office consider and report.

December 16th.—(1) Decree. The second rank is conferred on the Taotai Sung Chün for the excellent way in which he superintended the transport of grain to the famine districts in Shansi.

(2) Memorial. Tan Chung-lin, Governor of Shansi, reports that death sentences have been passed on part of a band of robbers lately captured for committing murder and depredation in the district of Yung-shou Hsien.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.

(3) Memorial. The same prays that a certain Colonel Tseng Wan-ch'iang, already degraded for having surreptitiously obtained the sum of Tls. 1,640, from the Bureau of Armament, be banished to the Amur, and his property confiscated to make restitution.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments consider and report.

(4) Memorial. Chin Shun, General at Urumtsi, reports that an officer in the transport service has been found guilty of neglect of duty and defalcation. He asks that he be degraded and further punished.—Rescript: Let him be stripped of his rank, and let the proper Board take note and consider.

(5) Memorial. Wen Ke, Governor of Shantung, reports that the Brigadier-General Wu Chi-hsün, at present in office at Taiwan, cannot for a time take up his new post at Tung-chow as ordered. He has therefore temporarily appointed Colonel Yü Shan to fill the post.—Rescript: Noted.

December 17th.—(1) Decree. The high civil and military officers in the provinces are again told to mend their ways and rule their different departments with justice and impartiality. Especially are the civil officers warned against displaying nepotism, but to only select officers of real merit and ability to fill vacancies that may occur. Only in this way can they hope to gain the respect of their subordinates and the affection of the people. The military officers are told to leave off sending in false muster-rolls of the men under them, and to be more honest and diligent and less extravagant.

(2) Memorial. Kwang Ngan, Reader of the Grand Secretariat, prays that the Board of Revenue may be instructed to again issue extra rations to the Bannermen in the Capital the same as last year, on account of the still ruling high prices of rice.—Rescript already recorded.

(3) The same states in a postscript memorial that the capital is full of idle and poor people. Even Lamas can be seen begging and coming to the public soup kitchen for food. This state of affairs, he thinks dangerous to the State, and in case of the Lamas begging, &c., he thinks such is very reprehensible and demoralizing. On inquiry, he finds, however, that since the reign of Hien Fung the Lamas have been deprived of their State allowance of rice, and prays that the Board of Revenue be instructed to issue rice to them as formerly.—Rescript already recorded.

(4) Postscript memorial. The same points out grievous abuses in the provinces by low officials arrogating to themselves judicial functions and thus oppressing the people. It often happens that rich persons employ these officers by paying them, in order to frighten the poor, against whom they have a case, into submission. He prays that the high provincial authorities will prohibit this state of affairs.—Rescript already recorded.

(5) Postscript memorial. The same reports the rapid increase of gambling houses in the capital. He calls them the breeding places of crime and ruin, and consequently points to the necessity of at once closing all such establishments from where the daily increasing numbers of criminals are recruited. He prays that the Censors of the districts in the capital be ordered to look to this in accordance with the law on the subject.—Rescript already recorded.

(6) Postscript memorial. Li Ho-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River,

reports that he has completed his tour of inspection on the Yellow River, and that he is urging all River work to be completed as quickly as possible.—Rescript: Noted.

(7) Memorial. Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, and Yen Hsü, Lieutenant-General of Jehol, report that the terms of office of Ying Chien, the present Taotai of Jehol, has expired, but ask that he be allowed to remain another year.—Rescript: —Let the Board of Civil Office consider and report.

(8) In a postscript memorial Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports that the Magistrate of Shun-i Hsien, in whose district a daring robbery took place in the 2nd moon of this year, has not been able yet to capture the robbers, and so recover the goods stolen. The memorialist prays that he be handed over to the Board of Punishments and be ordered to capture the robbers within a limited time.—Rescript: Granted.

December 18th.—(1) Memorial. Yen Hsü, Lieutenant-Governor of Jehol, reports that the judicial administration of that place is in a sad plight. There are law cases pending since the reign of Tao Kwang and although he had tried his best in urging the Magistrates to dispose of a part of these cases he has found it slow work. In order, therefore, to have a thorough clearing up and to dispose as quickly as possible of all old cases now pending, he prays that he may be allowed to establish a judicial bureau under a number of Deputies to help the Magistrates. He also suggests the way in which to meet the expenditure of such an establishment. In this way he thinks two or three years will suffice to dispose of all cases now pending.—Rescript: Granted, but let it be done thoroughly and no indolence shown.

(2) Memorial. Kwang Shou and Ho Shou-tzu report their return from the inspection of the Northern part of the Grand Canal. After giving a detailed account of the dilapidated state of the Canal in many places, they advise that Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, be ordered to devise means to put the Canal in proper order, for the benefit of the people and of the grain transports.—Rescript already recorded.

(3) Memorial. Li Hung-chang prays that Imperial tablets be hung in the Halls of the following public establishments, for so liberally coming forward and collecting money and medicines for the poor famine-stricken people of Ho-chien and Shansi, namely, in the Kuo-yu-shan-tang and the Silk Guild club house at Shanghai; in the Hu-chow Jen-chi-shan-tang in Chehkiang, and in the Tung-hua-shan-tang in Kwantung.—Rescript already recorded.

December 19th.—(1) Decree. Let Tsao Pao, Lieutenant-General of the Mongol plain red banner, vacate his post on account of sickness.

(2) Decree regarding a so-called *Lu-ming* feast for a Kü-jen graduate who has reached the sixtieth anniversary of his examination.

(3) Memorial. The Tartar General of Foochow and the Governor-General of Fuhkien and Chehkiang, jointly report, by command, on the administration of the Fuhkien customs.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) Li Hung-chang prays in a postscript memorial for an Imperial tablet to be bestowed on a temple of the God of Rain, who in time of dearth graciously responded to the public prayer for rain.—Rescript already recorded.

(5) Postscript memorial. Tan Chun-lin proposes certain changes among the District Magistrates. Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office consider and report.

(5) Memorial. C'hi Yüen recommends officers and men for promotion for having successfully captured a famous robber chief. Rescript already recorded.

December 20th.—(1) Rescript announcing the appointment of a Lieutenant-General of the Mongol plain red banner.

(2) Memorial. Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports the appointment of a District Magistrate to a post, less than 500 *li* distant from his native place. As this is against the law, he prays that the official be sent to another district, and another Magistrate be appointed in his stead.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office consider and report.

(3) Memorial. Wen Yü, Censor, President of the Censorate (都察院左都), reports an appeal case from Kiangsi. A woman having complained at the Yamên of the District Magistrate up to that of the Governor-General, on account of the alleged murder of her husband, at last appealed to the Censorate at Peking. An Imperial rescript is prayed for.—Rescript already recorded.

(4) Postscript memorial. Chin Shun impeaches a Department Magistrate for having embezzled over Tls. 500.—Rescript: Let him be stripped of his rank, and let the proper Board take note.

(5) Postscript memorial. Tu Tsung-ying, Governor of Honan, reports on the repairs of dykes of the Ch'in River (an affluent of the Yellow River.)—Rescript: Noted.

(6) Memorial. Ching Shou and Tang Shu-nan, two Censors, bring a case of murder to the notice of the Throne and ask for appropriate measures.—Rescript already recorded.

(7) Memorial. Li Wen-ming, Governor of Kiangsi, impeaches a jail officer for neglect of duty, and asks that he be handed over to the Board.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(8) Yen Hsü reports in a postscript memorial on changes among the District Magistrates near Jehol.—Rescript: Noted.

December 21st.—(1-3) Decree on movements and promotions of officials.

(4) Decree. At the request of Li Hung-chang, an Imperial Tablet with the customary inscription, is bestowed on the mother of the Governor of Hupeh, who subscribed Tls. 2,000 to the Famine Relief Fund.

(5) Decree. On the proposal of the Censor Tien Han-chih, the Police Censors of Peking and the Yamen of the General Commandant of the Gendarmerie shall affix their seal to and state the case with the name of the plaintiff on the summonses in all civil suits in order to avoid the extortions practiced by subordinates in connection with summonses.

(6) Decree. On account of the funeral of the late Emperor and Empress, all moneys due by the Departments and Districts of Chihli to the Board of War have to paid forthwith, and hereafter no delay will be allowed in the payment of the annual amount.

(7) Decree. The Governor-General of Chihli is directed to see that during the preparation of the Imperial road, on account of the forthcoming funeral, no useless vexations against the people find place.

(8) Memorial. Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, sets forth, in a lengthy document, the extortions and other malpractices of a district, and suggests appropriate punishment.—Rescript already recorded. [The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is filled with uninteresting memorials on sundry official affairs.]

December 22nd.—(1-2) Rescripts referring appeal cases back to Li Hung-chang and Wen Ke.

(3) Memorial. Li Hung-chang reports the decision of a case of murder which was referred to him on the proposal of the Censorate.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments consider and report.

(4) Memorial. Liu Kun-i, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, Chang Chao-tung, Governor of Kwang-tung, and Chün Ch'i, Superintendent of Customs, jointly pray that Imperial Tablets be bestowed on the temples at Swatow and other maritime places in honor of the God of War and the Queen of Heaven, who have protected those places from rebels and pirates.—Rescript already recorded.

(5) Memorial. The Censor Li Hung-kwei urges a stricter adherence to the rules in connection with the provincial examinations.—Rescript already recorded.

(6) Postscript memorial. Li Ho-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, prays that an Imperial tablet, with the customary inscription, be bestowed upon a graduate who gave Tls. 1,000 to the Famine Relief Fund.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(7) In a memorial the Imperial Board of Astronomy names the 15th April as the proper day for the obsequies of the late Emperor and Empress.—Rescript already recorded.

December 23rd.—(1) Decree. Several District Magistrates of Hunan are stripped of their rank, as proposed in the memorial of Shao Heng-yü.

(2) Memorial. Tso Tsung-tang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansu, asks for the appointment of a Magistrate of an independent department.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office consider and report.

(3) Memorial. Yü Lu, Governor of Anhwui, reports the decision of an appeal case, referred to him from the Yamên of the General Commandant of the Gendarmerie.—In the Rescript the Board of Punishments is ordered to report.

December 24th.—(1) The District Magistrate of Ling-hsien in Shantung having beheaded 20 robbers before reporting the case, Wen Ke, Governor of Shantung, had been ordered to report. Owing to his report the Magistrate is exonerated from all guilt, but it is ordered that Magistrates should in all, even in urgent cases like the present one, first report to the Governor-General or the Governor.

(2) Memorial. Ch'ung I reports on a case of murder committed by robbers in Kirin to investigate which he had been sent.—Rescript already recorded.

(3) Postscript memorial. The same reports on several officials deputed with him to Kirin, who have now been sent to the Province of He-lung-kiang.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) Postscript memorial. Liu Kün-i, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, proposes the appointment of a District Magistrate on account of the death of the former incumbent. Rescript: Noted.

(5) The same reports in another postscript memorial the vacancy of a prefecture and proposed appointment.—Rescript: Noted.

(6) Postscript memorial. T'sung I reports that in Kirin 176 robbers and others have been beheaded.—Rescript: Noted.

December 25th.—No documents of importance.

December 26th.—(1) Decree ordering the Provincial Treasury of Chihli to forward the amount required for the repairs of the sepulchre of a concubine of the Emperor Hien Feng.

(2) Decree ordering the Provincial Treasurer of Chihli to forward Tls. 30,000 for the Mausoleum of the late Emperor Tung Chih.

(3) Decree. As proposed by Chi Yüen the repairs of the Ta-cheng-tien shall be commenced in 2nd and 3rd month of the next year.

(4) Rescript concerning the appointment of a Deputy Supervisor of Instruction.

(5) Memorial. Mei Chi-chao, Governor of Chehkiang, prays for permission to be granted to a man to repair a second time to the Luh Ming banquet.—Rescript already recorded.

(6) Memorial. Wu Yüen-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, prays that time be allowed for forwarding a portion of the silks and satins for the Emperor, owing to the want of funds.—Rescript: Granted, let the Board of Revenue take note.

(7) Memorial. The same reports the death of the Provincial Director of Education and requests a speedy appointment.—Rescript already recorded.

(8) Postscript memorial. The same praises the late Provincial Director of Education, Lin T'ien-ling.—Rescript: Noted.

(9) Postscript memorial. Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Szechwan, reports having left the capital on a tour of inspection, the Provincial Treasurer acting during his absence.—Rescript: Noted.

December 27th.—(1) Memorial. Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Szechwan, reports the decision of a case of a man having murdered his elder brother.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments immediately report.

(2) In a postscript memorial Wu Yüen-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, reports a case of suicide committed by a wife on account of her husband's death. He prays that an arch be erected to her memory.—Rescript: Granted, let the Board of Ceremonies take note.

(3) Postscript memorial. Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Szechwan, requests that a District Magistrate be stripped of his rank for having employed an underling known to be a bad character.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(4) The same recommends a man to the Imperial favor for having subscribed Tls. 1,000 to the Shansi Famine Relief Fund, and prays that an Imperial Tablet with the usual inscription be granted.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(5) Postscript memorial. Tso Tsung-tang asks that a major, a second captain, and a lieutenant be stripped of their rank for having embezzled public monies.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

December 28th.—(1) Memorial. Yung Lu reports want of funds for the necessary repairs to the Imperial roads at the time of the obsequies of the late Emperor, and prays that the Governor-General of the Two Kiang be ordered to remit Tls. 40,000.—Rescript already recorded.

(2) Postscript memorial. Mu Tŭ-shan reports the increasing robberies committed outside of the Great Wall and recommends that all robbers be beheaded as soon as apprehended and their heads be publicly exhibited.—Rescript: Noted.

(3) The same asks in a postscript memorial for permission to engage twelve runners at Tls. 3 each per month, as owing to the unusually large number of criminal cases, the present number of runners is found insufficient.—Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.

(4) Memorial Ou-yang Si-chien, Brigade-General of Huai-yang-chen, Kiangsu, reports his arrival at his post and having taken over the seals of his office.—Rescript: Noted.

(5) Memorial. Yang Chung-ya, Governor of Kwangsi, recommends that Yang Tzŭ-chi, who was stripped of his rank, be appointed to his original rank of colonel, for having captured a band of sworn banditi.—Rescript already recorded.

December 29th.—(1) Memorial. The Censor Tuan Fu-chang complains that appeal cases referred back to a Provincial Judge have of late been given into the hands of Prefects to be decided. He requests that the Judges be ordered to investigate such cases themselves.—Rescript already recorded.

(2) Postscript memorial. Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Szechwan, reports that the Literary Chancellor, T'an Tsung-chin subscribed Tls. 1,200 towards the Famine Fund without asking for a reward

—Rescript: Let him be rewarded according to the regulations, and let the proper Board take note.

(3) Memorial. Liu Kŭn-i, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, and Chang Chao-tung, Governor of Kwantung, forward their decision of a case of murder; a man having killed two of his relatives is sentenced to be beheaded.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments immediately report.

(4) Postscript memorial. Tu Jui-lien, Governor of Yünnan, reports that owing to the rebellion, a great want of books was felt in his province. He therefore sent an officer to Hupeh to purchase books and has established a bookstore in the provincial capital.—Rescript: Noted.

December 30th.—(1) Decree. With regard to the sluice at Fan-k'ou in Hupeh, about which a great deal of correspondence has been published, it is decided that the Governor of Hupeh shall report, as the views of T'eng Yü-lin and Li Han-chang are at variance.

(2) Memorial. Wang Hsin, Supervising Censor of the Board of Ceremonies, prays that the high authorities of Shansi be ordered to report all officials who exerted themselves in connection with the Famine Relief work.—Rescript already recorded.

(3) The same exposes in a postscript memorial the horrible practice of infanticide now common in Shansi, and prays that the Governor of that province be directed to issue strict orders forbidding it.—Rescript already recorded.

(4) Memorial. Tseng Kwo-ch'üen, Governor of Shansi, reports that a good deal of salt is now in the province and that a further issue of salt tickets to dealers should be delayed.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider and report.

[The rest of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with postscript memorials on official changes.]

December 31st.—(1) Decree. The province of Kwangtung is allowed to add one name to the number of *chü-jen* heretofore fixed.

(2) Decree. Li C'heng-mou, whose term of retirement on account of mourning is completed, again takes his post of Commander-in-chief of the Yangtsze naval forces.

(3) Decree. The proper Board shall report on the officials who distinguished themselves in connection with the grain transport to Peking.

(4) Memorial. Tsai Ling, Imperial Clansman, in charge of the affairs of the Board of Works, requests that the Governor-General of the Two Kiang be ordered to forward the coir materials with which he is in arrear, and which are urgently required for the obsequies of the late Emperor.—Rescript already recorded.

(5) Postscript memorial. The same states that for the decoration of the T'ai-miao, 6,400 pieces of gold leaf are required, and prays that the Governor of Kiangsu be ordered to supply them.—Rescript already recorded.

(6) Memorial. Tseng Kwo-ch'üen, Governor of Shansi, recommends a District Magistrate for appointment, as he has proved himself efficient during his term of trial at the capital.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office take note.

(7) The same recommends in a postscript memorial, the Taotai Sung Chin to be promoted to the second rank for having distinguished himself in the distribution of 80,000 piculs of rice during the famine.—Rescript already recorded.

(8) Memorial. Tu Jui-lien, Governor of Yünnan, states that the province is infested by numberless banditti and that already a good many cases have been decided.—Rescript: Noted.